The Builder.

VOL. XXXII.—No. 1641.

National Training School of Music.

PASSENGERS along the Kensington-road may observe, at the west side of the Royal Albert Hall, a rough brick structure in course of erection within about 50 ft. distant from the portico of the Hall on that side. This building is the practical result of the exertions of the Society of Arts during the last eight years towards promoting the study of music on a sound basis in this country.

After several years' futile negotiations with the Royal Academy of Music, negotiations latterly conducted by the Duke of Edinburgh, a meeting was held on the 29th of May, 1873, at Clarence House, when it was resolved by the Musical Committee of the Society of Arts that an attempt should be made to obtain a proper building for the Training School, which it was estimated would cost from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* It was proposed that the money should be raised by debentures bearing 4 per cent. interest on the security of the land and building. But before any further steps were taken to raise the money, Mr. C. J. Freake called at the house of the Society on July 14th, 1873, and, with munificent liberality, marked through the paragraphs relating to the funds, and inscribed these words instead: "I will undertake to have the building erected at my own risk"! And Mr. Freake is now giving effect to this public-spirited offer by causing the building to be erected by Mr. Waller, and he will no doubt do full justice to the structure.

The first stone was laid on the 18th of December, 1873, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and, considering the nature of the building, great progress has been made in its erection. The *Builder* at the time gave a short account of the building (Dec. 27, 1873, p. 1034), which may be briefly recapitulated. The Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 have agreed to grant a lease of the ground for 99 years, at a rental of 80*l.* a year. Mr. Freake is the lessee of the ground, but as he gives the free use of the building for five years, so the Commissioners remit the ground-rent for the same period. The Albert Hall Corporation will grant the use of rooms for a library as well as of a theatre, and the great hall, and the school may probably be connected by a bridge with the Hall itself, if found to be necessary.

Lieut. H. H. Cole, R.E., has designed the school, and superintends its erection. His memorandum submitted to the committee was as follows:—

"1. After mature consideration and consultation, it was decided that the style of architecture to be adopted for the National Training School for Music should be so different from that of the Royal Albert Hall as to provoke no comparison unfavourable to the school. The school is a small structure, containing only about 200,000 cubic feet, whereas the Royal Albert Hall is an enormous building, containing about 6,500,000 cubic feet. Any use of brick and terra-cotta was therefore to be avoided, and the use of brick with stone dressings was objectionable, because it would have brought the terra-cotta of the Hall unfairly into comparison with the plain stone dressings of the school. The same kind of objection, besides that of cost, made the use of stone undesirable. It is the practice at the present time to use plaster or cement for covering the surface of buildings. In former times plaster-work had a character and decoration peculiar to itself, whilst in modern times plaster-work only imitates architectural stone mouldings, &c., and errs against good taste and truth. 2. I propose, therefore, that the building shall be constructed in plain brickwork, but decorated with plaster on sound principles, that the use of anything that is like a sham or imitation shall be avoided, and that the decoration shall not be excessive in cost. I estimate that the cost of the building, including decorations and fittings, need not exceed one shilling a cubic foot, or say about 10,000*l.* 3. It is also desirable that the building shall be as well lighted as possible. The windows are, therefore, made large. The Old English style of the sixteenth century, when large windows and plaster ornament prevailed, seems to be exactly suitable. For the ornament of the surfaces, the art of sgraffito, or cutting on plaster, is introduced. Sgraffito offers to supply at a moderate cost a mode of elegant and graceful decoration, appropriate to a school for all kinds of music. It may be remarked that sgraffito has been tried by the South Kensington artists on the east side of the Science Training Schools at South Kensington, and meets with approval.

(Signed) H. H. COLE, Lieut. R.E."

Mr. F. W. Moody will design and carry out the sgraffito panels and frieze of the exterior.

We give a view of the design,* and the plan of one floor.

The Society of Arts is the originator of this school. The Council have declared its object in the following extracts:—

1. The necessity for a National Training School for promoting the art of music in this country has long been felt, and at various periods has been urged by the highest authorities on the attention of successive governments. Such has been the unanimity of all those who are competent to give an opinion in this matter, that it is needless to discuss the question here. Suffice it to say that the whole subject of musical education in this and foreign countries was investigated and fully reported on by a committee appointed by the Society of Arts in 1865.

* See p. 609.

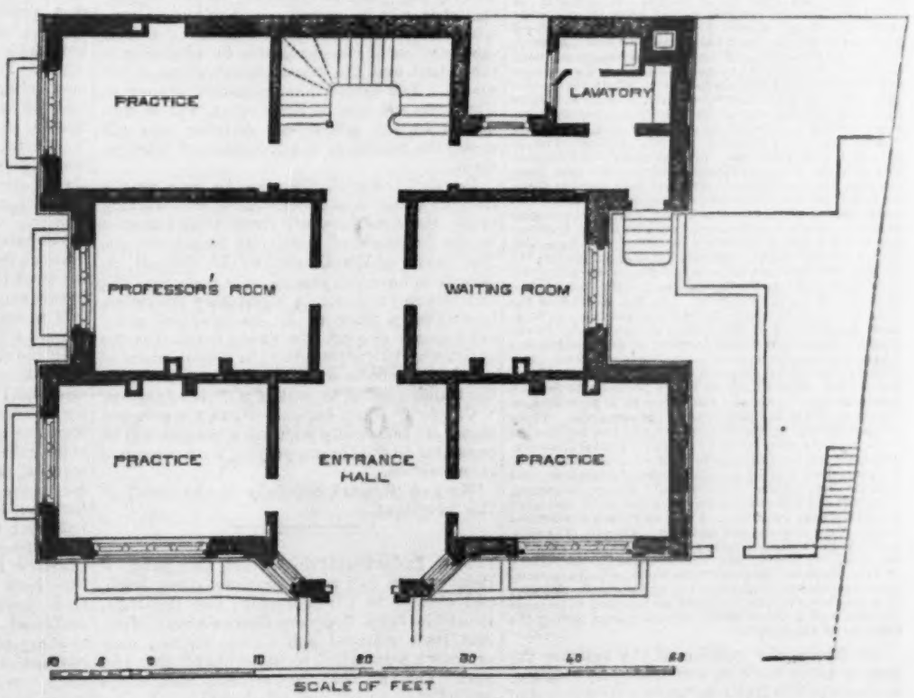
2. Although it appears from the reports of the Science and Art Department that the question of a State Training School was at one time under the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education—Earl Granville being then Lord President—the Department of Science and Art up to this time has not taken any active steps towards its establishment. It has therefore been decided by the Society of Arts to take the initiative, and establish a Training School by voluntary effort, with the full intention that it should, and under the confident hope that it will, eventually, be transferred to the responsible management of the State.

3. The fundamental principle and primary object of the school is the cultivation of the highest musical aptitude in the country, in whatever station of society it may be found. In order to carry out this principle to the fullest extent, admission to the school will be obtained by competitive examination alone.

4. As the gift of musical ability is found in all grades of society, and frequently among persons of very limited means, it is evident that in a large number of cases the student must not only receive gratuitous instruction but also be supported during the period of his or her training. To provide for this it is intended to establish about 300 scholarships, for which the most influential support has already been promised, and further support is solicited.

5. The proposed scholarships will be of two kinds, the one to afford free instruction by paying the students' fees, the other to give such free instruction with a maintenance allowance in addition. It will be open to any county, town, public body, or private individual to establish one or other of these kinds of scholarships for competition under given limitations. Should there be more accommodation in the school than is requisite for instruction of these scholars, students paying their own fees will be admitted by competition to fill the vacancies, care being taken that they show sufficient aptitude.

6. It is proposed that the school should provide in the first instance for the free instruction of about 300 scholars. The school fee without maintenance, it is estimated, will be between 35*l.* and 40*l.* a year. The maintenance allowance



Plan of Ground Floor.

for the support of the scholar will be in addition to this fee, and independent of the school.

7. Such a training-school as now commenced, on the basis of free instruction given by public competition, occupies a field of action wholly distinct from that of any existing institution.

10. The new building, devoted to twenty class-rooms, professors' rooms, and offices, has been designed expressly to meet the requirements of the school.

11. When all the local arrangements of the school are completed, it will have premises positively unrivalled by those of any school in Europe. It will have the use of the great amphitheatre and of an adjacent moderate-sized theatre; it will have libraries and professors' rooms, and a multitude of small rooms for instruction.

12. During the construction of the building, which will probably take eighteen months in completion, the Society of Arts will continue its movement throughout the United Kingdom to enlist public support for scholarships. The success which has hitherto attended the efforts of the Society gives promise that the nation will support the Society in this movement. A beginning has been made at Manchester and Birmingham, and committees have been formed at both places. From Birmingham it has been resolved to send ten scholars.

13. The Society will be prepared to send a deputation to explain the whole subject to any large town or corporation which expresses its readiness to form a local committee to aid in finding out the musical talent of the district.

14. The School, when built, will be under a Committee of Management, consisting of two members appointed by the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851; two members appointed by the Council of the Royal Albert Hall; and three members appointed by the Council of the Society of Arts; and the Committee thus formed consists of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., chairman; H.R.H. the Prince Christian, K.G.; Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Clarence Paget, K.C.B.; Sir William Anderson, K.C.B.; Major-General Eardley-Wilmot, R.A., F.R.S., or the Chairman of Council of the Society of Arts for the time being; Henry Cole, Esq., C.B., and Major Donnelly, R.E. The committee has appointed Mr. Alan S. Cole honorary secretary.

15. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, at the Royal Albert Hall, on the evening of the 18th of December, made the following observations:—

"Convinced as I am of the national importance of the work which has been this day commenced, and interested as I am in its success, I feel very much gratified at having had the opportunity of being associated with the proceedings of this day. You have heard the report read by the Rev. Canon Brookfield, which sets forth the history and condition of this undertaking at the present time; but there are a few words which I should like to add. Very naturally many will raise the question, 'Why should we establish a National Training School when there already exists the Royal Academy of Music?' This Royal Academy of Music, which has existed for half a century, has done much service, and the benefits arising from it none can doubt, for many of our most distinguished composers and musicians have been its members. There was a pause in the labours of the Society of Arts, and those labours have now extended over about fifteen years, but there was a pause which occurred at my own suggestion, on account of a thought on my part that the two institutions might have been united into one. I myself undertook a negotiation with the Royal Academy of Music with that view, but after some considerable time had been spent in them, we found that the principles on which the two institutions were founded were so far apart, that it was not advisable that they should be united into one. The Royal Academy has but few free scholarships for those who have displayed a knowledge and aptitude but have not means; the fundamental principle of the school we are assembled this evening to celebrate the foundation of is the free scholarships for all ranks of society. As Mr. Brookfield has read, nearly every county in England, and many in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, as well as many places in the colonies, have given us the prospect of scholarships, and I have now the pleasure of announcing some others. Her Majesty the Queen proposes to found a scholarship of 50*l.* a year. The Prince of Wales proposes to found a scholarship of 50*l.* a year; and I hope to be permitted, as Chairman of the Committee, to do the same also. These scholarships having been established, and bearing in mind the best of the rules in force in the Continental Conservatoires, I think we shall be able to afford to the students of the new school a really excellent musical education; and not only that, but also an education in history, languages, elocution, and deportment, which are absolutely necessary for all musical education. I beg to return my sincere thanks to the proposer and seconder of the vote of thanks, which, ladies and gentlemen, you have so kindly awarded me, and I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the Society of Arts, which has laboured these so many years to bring this matter to the commencement we have made this day. It is a society which for 100 years has laboured to promote the arts, and I think music may be placed among the foremost of the arts."

16. During the erection of the building the Society hopes to obtain public support sufficient to establish 300 free scholarships for a period of five years.

The committee of general management has begun its work and held many meetings. It has under consideration the following scheme of management:—

It is proposed that when the building of the school and the endowment funds are sufficiently advanced, five members shall be added to its body, representing the founders of scholarships and subscribers to the scholarships and general school endowments. In the meantime the committee of management will provisionally elect five representatives from the first five towns which shall each found ten scholarships. After the first year of the working of the school, these five members will be elected annually by the general body of founders and subscribers. Every 1*l.* of annual subscription to the scholarship or general school fund gives a subscriber one vote for the year, and every 25*l.* of donation or endowment to the scholarship or general school fund gives the donor or his representative a vote in perpetuity.

The conduct of the school will be divided into three distinct sections:—

(*a*) General administration.
(*b*) Professional direction of studies.
(*c*) Examinations.

The general administration will be conducted by a resident officer, to be called the "registrar," with an assistant if necessary. He will be charged with the registration and conduct of all correspondence, issue of prospectuses, enrolment of students, superintendence of accounts, compilation of the examiners' returns of examination; he will also be responsible for moral discipline; for correctness of attendances of the professional director, professors, and all other officers and students; for proper order of the establishment; for issue of orders for stores, music, instruments, and invitations to concerts, &c. He will also attend all meetings of the general committee and call and attend any of the meetings of the professors which may be held. A receiver and an accountant will also be appointed.

The direction of studies will refer solely to the curriculum prescribed for students, and to the methods of instruction. The committee of general management will appoint the director of studies, to be called the "professional director," who shall hold his office for one year, but be eligible for re-appointment. He will have the control and superintendence of the courses and methods of instruction, and he will prescribe the text-books to be used. He will recommend the professors for appointment to the general committee, and intimate to the registrar when he desires a meeting of professors. All his recommendations involving expenditure will be submitted to the general committee through the registrar.

Examinations.—A professional Board of Examiners, composed of musicians of the highest eminence, will be named annually by the committee of management, to conduct the local examinations of the candidates for admission to the school, and the annual examinations of the school. The sessional examinations, say one at Christmas and one at Midsummer, will be conducted by the professional director, who will report the results to the committee of management.

Provincial Branch Schools.—As soon as the training school is established, and is in working order, the committee will direct their attention to the formation of provincial branch schools. The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have this year directly recognised the importance of music in elementary education, by making a grant of 1*s.* on behalf of every child taught singing. It is to be hoped that this action may be completed by the establishment of provincial schools of music, and connected with the training school as part of a national system.

Charter of Incorporation.—When the arrangements are sufficiently matured, a petition will be presented to the Queen, praying for a charter of incorporation.

We look forward hopefully to the result of this movement.

The Indestructible Paint Company.—Paint which will really preserve stone, brick, and cement is a *desideratum*, and the Indestructible Paint Company, Cannon-street, claim that their material will do so: further, they produce a paint which resists acids, alkalies, and heat. The fact that their stone-solution is the one selected for St. Paul's Cathedral is sufficient to give it a claim on our attention.

THE OWEN JONES EXHIBITION.

IN looking over the collected designs of a professed "architect," we are almost bound, whatever might have been the specialty of their designer, to take account, first, of what he has done in the class of work which comes most strictly under the denomination of "architecture,"—the designing and planning of buildings; and the collection of drawings by one late distinguished decorative architect, now on view at the International Exhibition, furnishes an illustration of what we have observed in other instances, that the special cultivation of decorative design is seldom found to co-exist with a very strong feeling for the purely architectural treatment of building materials. It will very often happen that an architect who is best known as such, in the strict sense, will be found to have no little ability and fancy at his command for decorative design, when called upon; but the special direction of the attention to details of ornament seems to have a tendency to weaken the perception for the broader and more dignified qualities of architecture, regarded as the art of building well. Not one of the designs of this class in the Owen Jones collection can be called particularly successful. Perhaps the best is the front of St. James's Hall, which may still count as a sensible method of treating the entrance to such a building, where no more than a strip can be spared for the street front, though even here some of the details are out of proportion. The design for the old Trafford Exhibition (No. 17 in the collection) is indifferent, and that offered in competition for St. George's Hall, Liverpool, is one which the inhabitants of that town may well be thankful to have escaped. It seems to be just in proportion as the drawings get farthest from what we generally regard as architecture, and merge in pure decoration, that they become of a higher excellence and value. It would seem as if a close attention to surface decoration and colour weakened the perception of form, outline, and lines of construction, in this as in other instances; but this ought surely not to be an inevitable result.

An interesting portion of the collection is formed by some of the original drawings for the work by which Owen Jones first fully established his reputation—the splendid monograph of the Alhambra. The view of the alcove in the "Hall of the Two Sisters" (26), is a remarkably fine drawing of an elaborate and careful restoration. The drawings from 27 to 35 are geometrical elevations and sections of parts of the palace, with the ornament drawn out and coloured so far as was necessary to enable the lithographer to complete it, by repeating the parts. This study at the ancient Moorish palace coloured nearly all Owen Jones's subsequent work, sometimes to a too great extent. He imbibed here that predilection for interwoven designs of straight lines, of which he made such good use, but which is hardly suitable to all materials and media. From the study of this Saracenic ornament, also, from which the figure is excluded by rule, he derived perhaps his own indifference to figures as centres or adjuncts of ornamental treatment, and thus deprived his work of one very important element of intellectual interest. On the other hand, he brought from this source a knowledge of the most picturesque methods of grouping and contrasting the main lines of an ornamental design, and a store of beautiful suggestions for its filling in and elaboration, which rendered him at the time almost without a rival in this respect, and leaves his ornamental work still a model in point of fitness and elegance, beyond a good deal of what is popular just now.

Of the more architectural class of ornamental work here (to come by degrees to the pure ornament) is a small Greek temple, designed for Gibson; no doubt with the view of exhibiting some of his neo-Greek statues with a suitable *entourage*. This is coloured after the manner in which it seems certain the Greeks must have coloured much of their marble architecture: the plinth black and red, the antæ buff, and the spandrels and interspaces blue. The strong colour shown here would have made Gibson's lightly-tinted Venus and Hebe, had they been niched in this temple, almost resume that appearance of white of which the sculptor professed such an abhorrence. The series of chimney-piece designs for Mr. Alfred Morrison combine architectural features with ornament more successfully, perhaps, than anything else in the collection; the characters of the different rooms are admirably distinguished; those which

please us most are the dining-room and library; in the latter the doors of the close cases in the pedestal of the bookcases are made a field for ornamental treatment, in large light arabesque design on a black ground. The drawing-room design, handsome as it is, partakes a little too much of that laxity of line and mere conventional prettiness which, for a long time, has reigned far too much in drawing-rooms, even in quarters where artistic decoration has been an object. Two specimens of billiard-room decoration strike us as peculiarly successful; they are the more so, perhaps, because, in an apartment of this class, the artist felt compelled to curb his tendency to over-elaborate enrichment; in that for Mr. Mason (107 and 111) there is a black dado and a wall-paper which has (if we mistake not) been often used, in two tints of bluish green: the upper portion of the room is mainly oak tint, with gilding on the large pierced panels for ventilation. The billiard-room for Mr. Gurney (114) is shown in a small coloured section, and exhibits a bold combination of light and dark treatment. In the lofty centre portion of the room the walls are painted, on each side of a black and red marble mantelpiece, in panels, with a light blue-grey arabesque on a lighter ground, surrounded by a purple border. In the lower recesses at each side of the room the panels of corresponding range are painted strong morone with a blue border; thus presenting the appearance of an apartment with a lofty and light centre, and lower dark side-recesses. The combination appears most effective in the drawing, and has a direct reference to the architectural structure of the apartment,—a point which should never be lost sight of by the decorator.

It is, however, in the designing of purely ornamental work for flat surfaces, such as walls and ceilings, that the peculiar excellence of Owen Jones's design was best displayed. In regard to this class of decoration he may be said almost to have himself revived the taste which he afterwards supplied by showing and insisting upon the desirability of flat conventional ornament, introducing nothing out of keeping with the material employed, or the use to which it was to be put. He has had the honour of being our first and principal deliverer, in the period of modern taste, from the dominion of sprawling floral patterns, in apparent relief, on our wall papers and carpets, and of pointing out and exemplifying the superior beauty and fitness of smaller and more geometrically-constructed designs. His rules laid down in regard to designs of this kind have been accepted and acted upon almost universally by our best decorators; by some who now are unwilling to admit his credit as the forerunner of the movement. In these designs for wall-papers and decorations especially, his study of the Alhambra, in itself a school of wall decoration, placed a number of motives and suggestions at his command, and it is in the decorations of a modern Oriental palace, that of the Viceroy at Cairo, that his greatest success appears among the drawings now exhibited, and it is here that his special powers in ornamental design received the fullest opportunity of development. In these designs the employment of angular groupings of straight lines, as the basis or framework of the design, and which is so peculiar to Saracenic work, is largely developed; a very pleasing instance is in the ceiling decoration (41), with its buff and white lines, and delicate blue flower ornament. Among the richer designs of this group is one for a wall and frieze, a crowded design of conventional floral types intertwined, in light but decided tints of blue, white, and red. The bright effect of these designs, without being in any way gaudy, arises mainly from the judgment with which their author, in accordance with his own expressed principle, mingled together pure colours so as to produce a combination in which nothing was markedly predominant, and yet no dull or colourless tints were suffered to lower the key of the whole. In some of the designs for the Viceroy's palace, however, we cannot help thinking that the want of any unornamented space for the eye to rest on, the profusion of decoration from floor to ceiling partakes a little of the barbaric in total effect, however refined in detail; and in some of the drawings there seems a want of sufficient relation and balance between the upper and lower sections of the design; as, for instance, in drawings 48 and 51, in which the frieze is remarkably heavy in treatment in comparison with the light and open design of the lower part of the work. Perhaps the effect may be different, when the whole apartment is viewed, from what it appears in the drawing; but these are not the only instances in which we appear to find a certain deficiency in relation and subordination of parts; a little too much effort to put as much as possible into every portion. Perhaps, however, this may have been intended as a means of realising a true Oriental gorgeousness of effect; for in his designs for wall-papers for English use, mostly exemplified in this exhibition by strips of the papers themselves, the relation between the lower portion (the dado) and the more highly decorated expanse above it, is most happily and carefully attended to. Among the designs for ceilings here is a portion of the full-size working drawing for the very successful and effective ceiling of St. James's Hall; and a fine specimen it is of bold and free drawing on a large scale.

Among the Cairo ceilings No. 58 strikes us as a model of ceiling decoration, with straight bands of blue picked with white, almost inextricably interlaced, and the spaces filled in with rich floral designs in gold, with red and blue borders and grounds. The design has this peculiar merit, in addition to its beauty, that it could not possibly be taken for anything but a ceiling design. Another admirable ceiling, of quite a different type, is that designed for Mr. Mason (120), in which large circles meeting at the cardinal points form the dominant motive; they are cut into at these points by smaller three-quarter circles, enclosing gilt honeysuckle ornaments; the interspaces of the larger circles are filled with bold floral decoration. The smaller compartment of the ceiling, which is divided off by a soffit, is treated in an entirely different manner, in straight lines. There is much that is suggestive of further elaboration in the idea here given.

It was in the design of carpets alone, we think, that Owen Jones's Alhambra studies rather misled him. He applied to these articles, in too many instances, the peculiar straight-line intersection of Saracenic work, which, admirably suited to ceiling and wall decoration in hard and defined materials, and to tiled floors, is not suited in the same degree to the woollen texture, and necessarily uncertain lines of a carpet fabric. The large carpet designed for Messrs. Lewis (196), and hung at one side of the room, is not successful as a carpet, though an admirable design in other ways, and the same may be said of some of the numerous carpets originally designed for Mr. Morrison, though others show more of what we consider the real carpet treatment; and in one or two of them we may remark the effect produced by the use of a strong bright orange, almost yellow, ground, for the interspaces between some of the larger portions of the design. This is a bold effect, but for a carpet on a large scale and in a richly-furnished room it is highly successful. But in general we think the carpet designs too square and symmetrical; we see none of that happy irregularity of combination which we meet with in products of Indian looms, and which seems invented exactly to fit the exigencies of a carpet material and make. And it is noticeable that in some instances here, where the original coloured drawing and the finished carpet can be compared (as in the case of the large carpet in the centre of the room), the effect in the drawing is much better than in execution. Wherever this is the case, we may feel sure that a design has been made which the material employed cannot adequately represent; or, in other words, that the design is unsuitable to the material.

The inlaid chairs and cabinets, designed for Mr. Morrison, are beautiful specimens of workmanship in this particular form, but the inlay design is often so applied as to obscure and weaken the constructive lines of the furniture, instead of strengthening it; and altogether this is not a type of furniture design which we should wish to see imitated: so much it is almost a duty to say.

Some designs for bank-notes for foreign Governments are admirable, and show what a pretty thing it is possible to make of a bank-note. It is in doing little things of this kind with grace and fitness that much of the indication of national art, or want of art, may be discerned. Judged by such a standard, our artistic status would not be very high even now; that it is a good deal higher than it was five-and-twenty years ago is due not a little to the labours of Owen Jones; and one of the best guarantees for the future of our decorative art would be in finding plenty of worthy successors to the estimable illustrator of the Alhambra.

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS AND MANAGEMENT BILL.

THE Committee of the House of Commons on the Metropolitan Buildings and Management Bill met again on Friday, the 10th inst., when the new clauses (referred to in last week's *Builder*) which had been drawn up by the promoters in consequence of the resolutions passed by the Committee, were taken into consideration. There was a full attendance of the Committee, every member being present.

Mr. Philbrick, in addressing the Committee on behalf of the promoters, said, that in compliance with the resolutions of the Committee they had modelled certain clauses which were then before them. Having stated that as the Bill was not a private Bill, the promoters had no power, without the leave of the House, to have it reprinted, the learned Counsel proceeded to remark that with regard to the clauses themselves, and the resolutions of the Committee, he desired to state, on the part of the Metropolitan Board, with all respect to the Committee, that were the Bill a private Bill merely, and in the entire control of the Metropolitan Board, it would be a very grave question indeed with them, the Bill being, in their opinion, mutilated, and deprived of some of the powers which they thought were most essential to the legislation which they proposed, how far they would proceed with the Bill; but it being a public Bill, they had deemed it their duty, out of respect to the Committee, and in the interests of the public, to model the clauses now submitted, which embodied, as they believed, the resolutions of the Committee, but which, in no sense, were their own proposals. With regard to the sixth resolution of the Committee, to the effect that the schedules to the Bill, and the bye-laws, ought to be incorporated in the Bill itself, it seemed to the promoters, in the view they took of the Bill, to be a matter to be dealt with on each clause as it arose. Another suggestion of the Committee was that the dispensing power proposed to be given to the Board as to the height and area of buildings would be better provided for by a general clause, pointing out the nature of the cases to which that dispensing power should be limited, and they had framed a clause carrying out, as they conceived, the intention of the Committee. With regard to the resolution of the Committee to the effect that the old language should be, as far as possible, adhered to, the promoters also thought that that became a question of looking at the language of each clause as it arose. He (the learned counsel) had taken the trouble to look at every case, and to read every case, that had been decided upon the Building Act by the superior courts. There were not more than ten or eleven of them. In some of the cases questions of fact had arisen as to what was a building or what was not, there being no definition of what a building is under the present Act; and in other cases controverted questions had arisen, and he thought that as they came to each clause, and contrasted it with the language of the Building Act of 1855, they would see how far there had been a departure from the language of that Act, and whether it would be right to restore the old language or not. The learned counsel then asked for an intimation from the Committee as to the course of procedure they desired to follow, and stated that on the part of the promoters of the Bill he was quite ready to discuss the clauses before the Committee, but it would be in their recollection that in attempting in the first instance to give evidence as to specific clauses, and as to particular matters, he was restrained in giving that evidence, and the evidence was confined more to general matters, respecting which the Committee had decided certain points by their resolutions. He should like to know, for the guidance of the promoters, how far the Committee would desire that evidence should be called upon the clauses and the schedules of the Bill, which were matters of great detail, involving very many considerations. He felt bound, on behalf of the promoters, to state that the clauses had been with great particularity and great minuteness discussed between the Board and the builders. The present shape in which the Bill was before the Committee was the result of very many meetings, and a great deal of criticism,—not in an unfriendly way, but in a thoroughly cordial and co-operative spirit, to assist in the common object,—had been applied to the various provisions in the Bill. But, looking now at the period of the session at which they had arrived, it was of course apparent,—and he believed it had been apparent for some

time,—that with regard to effective legislation, it would be impossible to get the Bill into an Act during the present session of Parliament. The most that could be hoped for would be that the Bill would be able to pass through committee, and that that Committee would be enabled to report upon the Bill in its entirety. That would be the most that they could hope for, having regard to the period at which they had arrived.

Mr. Corrie, on behalf of the Corporation of the City of London, said that the promoters of the Bill had not attempted to deal with the most important part of the resolutions of the Committee; and, under these circumstances, he would ask why were they to go on day after day discussing the clauses, which the learned counsel admitted could not be carried into effect. The sensible course for the Committee to adopt was to report the evidence to the House, and also report the resolutions come to by the Committee, and then next year let the Metropolitan Board bring in a Bill that might pass. He trusted the Committee would not keep the parties there day after day, when, after all, the attendance must be useless.

Mr. Round, who appeared for the dock companies, took a similar view to that expressed by Mr. Corrie.

Mr. Layton, who represented the railway companies, said he was practically in the same position as Mr. Round. He submitted, that if anything was to be done with the Bill, it ought to be reprinted in the first instance before they could go any further with it.

Mr. Mackrell, on the other hand, said that the resolutions were very satisfactory to the large manufacturing and trading interests which he represented, and also to the Builders' Society; and on their part he said that he should be very sorry indeed if the resolutions of the Committee were not made law, particularly resolutions 2 and 3, as regarded cubical contents; and if the Committee could see their way so to vary the Bill, as to make it a short amending Bill which might possibly be carried through, one very important decision of the Committee would be carried out, very much to the satisfaction of the great trading community of London.

The Committee-room was then cleared, and on the parties being again called in,

The Chairman said the committee had requested him to state that they had arrived at the following resolution:—"That the committee do not consider it expedient to proceed to the consideration of the clauses of the Bill until the promoters shall have submitted to them a draft Bill, framed in accordance with the suggestions made, and the resolutions arrived at, on the 1st of July. The committee desire to know whether the representatives of the Metropolitan Board are now prepared to adopt such a course, and if so, within what time.

Mr. Philbrick said they could not print an amended Bill.

The Chairman, in reply, said that they could put the clauses by which they proposed to carry out the suggestions of the committee, before the committee as a draft. The committee felt that it was impossible for them to proceed with the consideration of the clauses when they had not those clauses before them in the shape and form in which they were intended to be.

Mr. Philbrick said, the shape and form in which the clauses were intended by the promoters to be, was as they stood in the Bill, as it was now before the committee, with the amendments. As regarded the shape and form in which, as he understood, the committee desired the Bill to be placed, they scarcely knew how far the committee desired the Bill to be modified, and as to one of the suggestions more particularly, it was almost impossible for them to gather what the views of the committee were.

Mr. Cawley.—Which is that?

Mr. Philbrick.—With regard to the language.

Mr. Cawley.—I do not think there is any difficulty about that.

A lengthened discussion followed on this particular feature in the Bill, and several members of the committee, including Mr. Goldsmid, Mr. Cawley, Mr. Walter, and others, expressed an opinion to the effect that it was very desirable not to alter the language of the existing law.

Mr. Philbrick observed that with regard to the definition of the word "building," to which Mr. Cawley had called his attention, only the day before a case was reported in the papers as having arisen at the Wandsworth police court, where the magistrate found a difficulty, because there was not a definition of the word "building" in the Act. A person tried to exempt a sort of a caravan from the operation of the Building Act. He refused to comply with the order of the district surveyor, and in order to evade the operation of the law, he proposed, before the magistrate, to put it upon wheels, so that it should not fall within the definition of a building. It was intended as a washhouse, in which washing and mangling should be carried on. The magistrate held that it was a building within the Act. The promoters wished to define a building.

Mr. Cawley said that was not the point. He was not saying a word against defining a "building." He was talking about their introducing these words "or other proper party structure," "party structure," and "party wall." The question was whether they would modify the Bill for the committee, in order that they might have less trouble.

Mr. Walter said they had this definition of a building: "Building means a fixed erection, comprising a cubical space defined by walls, piers, posts, or other structures." That might comprehend an infinite variety of buildings. Then by clause 8 they provided that every building must be separated by an external wall or party wall, or other proper party structure, from the adjoining building. A party structure was defined on page 4, where a party wall or party fence wall was included under "party structure." Then, on page 64 in the schedule, there was a still further definition of a party fence wall; there were three sub-sections giving different descriptions of a party fence wall. They had to apply those definitions to party walls or party structures in the cases of all separate buildings. It would involve very difficult questions, and a great deal of litigation, to reconcile the administration of the law with those various definitions.

The chairman said it was not necessary to enter into illustrations of difficulties which the committee saw. The main point was this, that the committee had arrived at the resolution which he had read, and, in the terms of that resolution, he should be glad if Mr. Philbrick would inform the committee "whether the representatives of the Metropolitan Board are prepared now to adopt such a course, and if so, within what time."

Mr. Philbrick replied, that all he could say in answer to the question the chairman had put was this, that the agent who instructed him would take the instructions of the Metropolitan Board upon that matter, and would communicate the result to the committee at the earliest possible opportunity. The committee that had charge of the Bill would meet on Tuesday, and if the committee were to adjourn till Thursday, he should be prepared fully to state to the committee the course intended to be adopted.

The Chairman: That would be the 16th of July. Upon the 16th of July you are to tell us whether you will be prepared to remodel the whole draft of the Bill, and if so, within what time?

Mr. Philbrick: I am utterly unable to give an answer, as I might do if I had a client who could personally instruct me. I am acting for a public body, who must be convened.

Mr. Goldsmid: Then the solicitor is not properly empowered, as he ought to be.

The committee-room was again cleared, and when the parties were called in the chairman said, the committee have resolved that the counsel for the Metropolitan Board, having applied for time to consult his clients, before answering the question contained in the previous resolution of the committee, the committee do now adjourn to Tuesday next, to enable him to give such answer.

The Committee met again on Tuesday last, at twelve o'clock, Sir Seymour Fitzgerald, the chairman, presiding.

In the absence of Mr. Philbrick, the leading counsel for the promoters, Mr. Bazalgette, who was with him in the case, proceeded to state the decision at which the Metropolitan Board had arrived. He said that the Works Committee of the Board had met the previous day, and taken into consideration the resolution passed by the Committee on Friday last. He might there state that the Works Committee was a Committee of the whole board, and, therefore, the resolutions at which they had arrived might be regarded as the decision of the entire body. The learned counsel was about to read the resolutions passed by the works Committee of the Board, when he was interrupted by

The Chairman, who stated that the Committee were not desirous of hearing the resolution read which had been passed by the Works Committee of the Metropolitan Board. All they wished was an answer to the question contained in the resolution of the Committee, the adjournment having taken place in order to enable Mr. Philbrick to give such answer.

Mr. Bazalgette then stated that in consequence of the resolution of the Committee, the Works Committee of the Metropolitan Board recommended that it was not advisable on the part of the Board to take any further proceedings on the Bill.

The Chairman.—That is sufficient.

The committee-room was then cleared, and the Committee remained in consultation for nearly two hours. When the parties were re-admitted,

The Chairman stated that the Committee had resolved, if the House would permit them, to make a special report on the Bill, and the evidence which had been laid before them.

Mr. Mackrell, who, during the progress of the Bill had represented several of the large manufacturers and traders, then rose, and made an application to the Committee. It was to the effect that the Committee would take steps for laying before the Speaker the case of some of the parties as regarded the fees. He asked that the parties who had appeared before the Committee for the purpose only of protecting their own interests should have their fees remitted, and that a representation be made to the Speaker to that effect.

Col. Hogg observed that the application was an unreasonable one, inasmuch as the Bill had been promoted by the Metropolitan Board solely in the public interest.

In the course of the discussion which followed several members expressed themselves against the proposal being entertained; and ultimately

The Chairman said that should the Speaker make an application to the Committee on the subject, the Committee would state to him the circumstances under which the several parties had appeared before them.

The protracted and fruitless proceedings, which had occupied sixteen days, were then brought to a close.

THE CONNEXION BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH AND ACTIVITY IN THE TRADES CONNECTED WITH BUILDING.

WE have more than once invited our readers to consider the movement of the building trade in this country; comparing the annual accommodation required by the growth of our population, with the returns of inhabited houses, and of those which were in course of construction. Resuming, in round numbers, what we have already given in detail, we note that 920,000 inhabited houses, worth, let us say, at fifteen years' purchase, 225,000,000*l.*, have been added to the previously existing house property in England and Wales in the last ten years, on the supposition that some 44 per cent. of these figures go to replace decayed houses.

It thus appears that we are safely within the mark, in the estimate that for each unit of gain in our population—that is to say, for each individual of the annual surplus of births over deaths—50*l.* are laid out in building. Taking the facts, for the last decade, in England and Wales, and confining our calculation to the inhabited houses, we shall find that no less than 86*l.* per head have been expended in building to provide accommodation for the increase of our population,—that is to say, of course, 86*l.* per head of the increase.

The 225,000,000*l.* laid out within the decade comprises not only the cost of labour, but also that of materials, together with the builder's profit. This division it is, of course, out of the question that we can analyse minutely. But, with regard to materials, it must be borne in mind that their cost ultimately resolves itself into that of labour, with the addition of the small portion that represents rent, royalty, and the like. For even freight, which is a main element in the cost of foreign timber, resolves itself into the cost of navigation and the profits of the shipowner. The place, then, where doubt and error creep in, is here. A certain number of men are returned as exercising the building trade. But for the production and preparation of the materials of the builder, an amount of labour is employed which is divided under other heads; as, for example, that of commerce. For this reason we can only approximate the proportion between the gross cost of building, and the payment made for the labour of the builder.

It comes out, however, very clearly, that an allowance of 1 per cent. per annum, for replacement of decayed houses, can in no way represent

the outlay in repairs. In round numbers, 600,000 persons are employed in building. Most of these are skilled workmen. Considering the ruling rate of wages of carpenters, masons, smiths, painters, and other trades, it seems to us evident that the average of 50*l.* per annum, for each person engaged in building, must be considerably under the mark. But an expenditure of 22,500,000*l.* per annum will not yield more than 37*l.* 10*s.* per head per annum for our 600,000 workmen. It would seem from these facts that more than half the work done by the building trade must be of the nature of repairs and renewals, that in no way increase the actual amount of house accommodation in the country.

Reverting to the present rate of expenditure, of 86*l.* per head for the housing of the annual increase of our population, it is evident that the birth of each healthy child that is in excess of the death rate makes at least a year's work for a skilled workman. Thus the prosperity of the building trade is intimately connected with the health of the people. Annual increase of population depends on two elements, namely, fertility and viability. Neither of these, taken alone, directly affects the builder. But taken together, they form the very regulating power that determines the activity of the building trade. It is not the birth of a child that makes the house too small, if that birth only replace a lost infant or an aged adult. But when the children not only come in troops, but make good their abode amongst us, we have to lengthen the cords of our tents. Here lies the direct pecuniary interest of the builder in sanitary science and practice.

In looking forward to the future development of the resources of this country, and more especially to that of its architectural splendour and comfort, an element of disturbance must be borne in mind, for which due allowance ought to be made. It is hardly necessary to say that we are not making any attempt at what may be properly called prediction. Exactly to foretell what is about to happen is neither possible nor desirable. But to calculate what must happen, such and such premises being assumed, is not only possible, but wise. For, when we distinctly understand the tendency of any action, we have good counsel as to whether we should adopt it or not. To know what, if nothing arise from other causes to interfere, will be the result of our conduct, is the very grammar of sagacity.

The point to which we refer is the comparative fertility and viability of different regions of the country, and, notably, the difference, in this respect, between great towns and country districts. Thus, in the ten years ending in 1863, the average amount of mortality in 198 districts and sub-districts, comprising the chief towns of England, was 24·47 per thousand; while in the remaining portions of England and Wales, comprising small towns and country parishes, the average annual mortality for the same period was 19·99 per thousand, being in the favour of longevity in the country by 4·48 per thousand per annum.

The tables of births are not divided, in the Report of the Registrar-General, in such a manner as to admit of an immediate comparison with the tables of mortality. But we can obtain an approximation. In the year 1869, throughout the whole of England and Wales, ten children were born to every 259 of the population. In Wales ten children were born to every 268 of the inhabitants. In London the proportion was ten to 245. Considering the state of public opinion in the country, and remembering the very early age at which marriage is entered upon in the agricultural districts, we think there is reason to conclude that this increased fertility in the town population is due to the fact of a constant stream of immigration of young persons from the country, in the prime of youth. The population of London, we know, doubles in rather less than forty years. The population of England takes 55 years to double. This difference in the rate of increase is, evidently, made up by immigration from the country; and the healthy character of this immigration would seem to be indicated by the increase, ten per cent., in the birth rate.

If, now, we compare the viability of the town-born child with that of the country-born child, we shall find a marked difference. Here again, however, the form of the annual tables is not such as to lend itself to a ready statistical comparison. We know how high is the rate of infant mortality in some towns, although we have not the fact in the most available form. The "London" of the Registrar-General is a large district, and a district far healthier than those more densely populated parts, either of its own area, or of other large cities, in which the population is most thickly crowded. Thus, when we say that while, out of the whole population of England and Wales, the deaths which occur under five years of age are 38·8 per cent. of the total deaths, those which occur in London under five years of age are 45·4 per cent. of the total deaths, we are only giving a low example of the increase of infant mortality due to town rearing and town conditions.

These figures give us, then, but an approximative view of the actual internal movement of our population as to increase. Still, though approximative only, and that in a mode which detracts from, rather than exaggerates, the actual facts, it is highly instructive. Our rural population, in the prime of youth, is flowing from the country to the city districts, at a rate that makes the proportionate increase of London, in forty years, as much as that of the whole country in fifty-five years. The fertility of this population, constantly fed by new blood, is about five per cent. above that of the entire kingdom, or ten per cent. above that of Wales. But the mortality of the children so born is rather more than fourteen per cent. above that which prevails through the whole country, taking the deaths under five years of age. Thus, the permanent, or useful, fertility of the town population, taken under the most favourable circumstances possible, is some nine per cent. less than is the case with the country population; the excess of births, which is due to the age of the immigrants, and, perhaps, to some extent, to greater abundance of food and comfort, being so far overbalanced by the worse condition of infant hygeine.

Let it not be imagined that figures like these are insignificant; or that the subject is one undeserving of the warmest interest of the statesman any less than of the sanitary reformer. We see, in this country, causes at work which threaten a serious check to the material development of the power and resources of the nation. If any one say that the operation of those causes is too trifling in amount to deserve any serious heed, let him look to the other side of the Channel. There we see the same causes, stimulated, no doubt, by certain elements of French practice that are as yet almost absent in England, in full operation. Every one is aware of the immense attraction which Paris exercises over France; and of the stimulus given to that attraction by the magnificent mode in which the fair city has been, to a great extent, rebuilt, during the delusive glitter of the Second Empire. The result is expressed in the fact that out of the total number of 1,851,792 inhabitants of Paris (exclusive of a garrison of some 33,000 troops), at the last census, about one-third only were born in the city; 1,031,865 of the inhabitants being immigrants from the provinces, and 177,000 being naturalised foreigners. The period of time in which the population of Paris doubles we have not seen calculated. But we have the grave and menacing statement, made in 1867 by Monsieur Raudot,* that (as compared with fifty-five years in England, and with fifty years in Russia), it would take 183 years, at the present rate of increase, for the population of France to double. This period, according to the last census, is extended to 198 years. Something far more formidable, however, is detected by a minute examination of the details brought together by M. Raudot. The increase of population for some time has been growing feebler and feebler in that country. At length the balance has turned, and, in this respect, France is now actually in decadence.

So remarkable a contradiction to the usual course of those physiological laws which have hitherto been regarded as certain, and even as extremely embarrasing, by theoretical writers on Political Economy, is a phenomenon of no small magnitude. State it how we will, it is full of menace. Of menace, we do not say to France alone, but to civilisation. In many respects, France still justifies her boast of being in the van of the civilisation of the world. The immense impulse, whether for good or for evil, that she gives to this country is matter of notoriety. Sooner or later, the example of France produces a powerful effect on England. When we see, then, our nearest neighbour, gifted with a soil and climate that are certainly at least equal to those of our own country, and with a population endeared to their native soil by ties to which those of the English peasant are as threads, steadily depopulating her rural districts by the dangerous increase of the turbulent centres of City life; we have before us an acute case of the same disease which now shows premonitory symptoms in this country.

We will spare our readers any of those preliminary and important corrections of first figures that have to be made for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, on the one hand, and for the gain of Savoy on the other hand. We only refer to this part of the subject lest it should be thought that it has been overlooked. This is not the case. The proper corrections have been made. We come to the very serious statement that while, in the year 1867, the number of births in France exceeded that of the deaths by about 20 per cent., in 1871 the number of deaths in France outnumbered the births by thirty-three per cent.! We add the actual figures.

In the year 1867, the births in France were 1,007,515; the deaths, 886,887; the consequent difference, or excess of births, being 220,628. In the year 1871, the births in France were 821,121; the deaths, 1,271,010; the difference, or excess of deaths, being 449,889.

That the foreign war of 1870–1871, and the civil war of 1872, have each had a disastrous effect, both in increasing deaths, and in diminishing births, there is no doubt. But that will by no means account for the figures in question. M. Raudot gives good reasons for estimating the *deficit* of men caused by actual loss in the war at 100,000. As to the births, it is not until 1871 that a falling off could have occurred from the war, if such took place at all. But the number of births in 1870 was 64,000 less than that in 1867. Year by year the births have steadily fallen off; and this is not all. Year by year the deaths have increased, and that increase has been more rapid than that of the births. In 1867, there were 186,394 more births in France than there were in 1871. In 1871, there were 384,123 more deaths in France than there were in 1867. This is burning the candle at both ends. If we double the allowance made by M. Raudot for war casualties, we still find the decrease of population to be as much from more deaths as from fewer births. What is the cause of a phenomenon that looks so inexplicable?

We can point out one cause. The influences which are now so apparently at work in decimating the population of France are not of yesterday's growth. If only recently brought to light, they have been at work for years,—a canker at the heart of the national life. The increase in the deaths denotes either a decreasing viability in the whole nation, or an excess of elderly persons,—due to a former check on the fountain that supplies the young. We think it must denote both. A *proportionate* increase of deaths, even to a large amount, might be due to the latter cause, but hardly a *positive* increase. It is, of course, out of our reach to ascertain how far such a decrease of fertility may be due to moral, and how far to physiological causes; but such a division, even if it were made, does not in any way alter the facts. In France there are 308 children born to every 100 marriages; in England, 392; in Russia, 472. Whether people defer marriage from prudential motives, or whatever other, and truer, reason may be adduced, the fact remains the same. If, instead of making our comparison by the number of marriages, we make it as a per centage of the population, the results are still more striking. In Prussia 507 children are born annually, to every 10,000 persons; in England, 354; in France, only 266.

It is very easy to draw up a sensational statement, and to say that, at the present rate of decrease in population, France will, in so many years, be entirely depopulated. Statements of that nature are all very well in their way, but they are apart from the province of serious literature. The facts are of sufficient gravity to dispense with exaggeration. What we actually see before our eyes is true. There exists, in France, a disproportionate or diseased tendency for the life-blood of the provinces to collect and stagnate at the heart. All the luxury of the capital, stimulated as it has been to the utmost, increases this morbid action in the national life. And the actual symptoms are,—decrease in the productive energy of the people; enfeebled viability; and gradual decline of agriculture, from the increasing sparseness of the country population.

When the house of our neighbour is on fire it is time to look to our own. Some of the most

* Recensement de la Population de la France, en 1872, par M. Raudot, député de L'Yonne.

threatening symptoms are, indeed, absent in our own case, but yet there are ample causes for anxiety. Our increase of numbers, although somewhat slackened, yet maintains a rate that has caused anxiety, from its magnitude, to a certain school of writers.

We have thought it well thus to show how the prosperity of one great interest, such as that of the building trade, is intimately bound up with, not only the maintenance, but the steady increase, of the national health. What is thus true in one case, is, to some extent, true in all. It is not to the selfish principles of human nature that we are appealing. We only take one illustration, which is capable of reduction to figures, to exemplify general truth. If the prosperity of the builder depends, not only on the maintenance, but on the increment, of national fertility and viability, so is it with every other calling. If the effect of disease, pestilence, or any other check to a normal and healthy increase of the people be to slacken the work in the builder's yard, it will be the same in the forge, the mine, the factory, the cottage; it will be the same wherever man is at work for his fellows. The tie may be called a selfish one, but it is a tie bound by Nature herself. We touch, at present, on only one part of a great subject,—that which relates to the prevention of preventible disease, and the maintenance of the normal energy of the country by the preservation of health and of viability. But there is another, and a no less important view of the subject at which we can only glance. It is to the effect that the prime instincts of human nature are not only conservative, but thoroughly true in their tendencies. If we find population press upon resources, the remedy is, not to diminish the first, but to augment the second. Every child born to the community is an addition to its productive power. It is the fault not of the child but of the community, if he be not trained to produce; and thus to become, in more ways than one, an addition to the material power of the country. We have read of a division of the population into producers and consumers. A no less true, and, from one point of view, a more instructive division, would be into producers and stimulators of production. In the latter sense every additional unit of population is a source of increment in the national wealth.

"DECORATION OF ST. PAUL'S."

SIR,—Mr. William H. White, in his defence of Mr. Burges's design for decorating the interior of St. Paul's Cathedral, speaks of the interior of St. Peter's, Rome, as being "*vulgar*." Now, vulgarity is not a question of architecture, but a question of fact; a thing which is vulgar must be repulsive to the minds of all educated men; and the more refined the mind the more repulsive will vulgarity appear to it. Now I take it, the writer of "Childe Harold" was possessed of a refined mind and sufficient education to be a good judge as to the existence or non-existence of vulgarity in anything. Well, the writer of "Childe Harold" uses the following language with regard to this "*vulgar*" church:—

"But thou of temples old or altars new,
Standest alone with nothing like to thee—
Worthiest of God, the holy and the true.
Since Zion's desolation, when that He
Forsook his former city, what could be,
Of earthly structures in his honour piled,
Of a sublimer aspect? Majesty,
Power, glory, strength, and beauty, all are aisled
In this eternal ark of worship undefiled.

* * * * *

Thou movest—but increasing with the advance,
Like climbing some great Alp, which still doth rise,
Deceived by its gigantic elegance;
Vastness which grows—but grows to harmonise—
All musical in its immensities.
Rich marble—richer painting—shrines where flame
The lamps of gold—and haughty dome, which vies
In air with earth's chief structures, though their frame
Sits on the firm-set earth—and this the clouds must claim."*

Surely a building which has called forth such sentiments and such expressions as these cannot be so very "*vulgar*" after all. And there is another view of the matter which is worth considering, and that is, whether the *vulgarity* does not exist in the excessive narrow-mindedness of the school of architects to which Mr. White belongs? And all persons who appreciate the true glories of Italian architecture, and honour the memory of the great Sir Christopher, must hope that his greatest work will be delivered out of the hands of a member of such a school.

H. W. B.

* "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," canto iv., stanzas cliv. and clvi.

SIR,—In your last number there is a letter of Mr. W. H. White's on the "Bedizenment of St. Paul's," an unhappy term applied to the justification of the models now on view in the Royal Academy. He considers mine an unfortunate suggestion of a competition for other modes of decoration, "a competition," he says, "which, begun in flagrant injustice, would probably terminate only a little less unjustly than many of the equally important ones, which have been held during the last thirty years."

It appears to me, on the contrary, that this is a very legitimate occasion for competition, by which, it is to be hoped, a more satisfactory solution of the difficult problem of the decoration, I would not say *bedizenment*, of our metropolitan cathedral may be realised. The general voice condemns the models as false in sentiment and utterly opposed to correct taste in execution. There is an evident failure. The author will receive his remuneration: but is he entitled to expect a fresh commission? And are the committee to incur a like expense with the probability of a second failure after the first, when the artist was left unfettered in the exercise of his judgment, his imagination, and his taste? Should his abilities prove so transcendent, as possibly they may in this tournament with his rivals, he will be fully entitled to all the honours of his success, and he will not have to complain that his utmost energies have been called forth by the occasion.

The experiment of the decoration of a Protestant cathedral of this importance is a novel one. The type of the Roman Catholic must not be adopted. There must be a sober majestic treatment,—not sparing as to the costliness of the materials to be employed, but with discretion in their use. We need not, we cannot, follow any existing like example. But the eminent success of the late Baron Triqueti in the sepulchral chapel attached to St. George's, Windsor, shows that the imagination of the artist has still open to him new fields of invention not hitherto entered upon.

The fabric of St. Paul's, as left by Sir Christopher, offers the best key-note for the decoration. In all its details it is marvellously pure, considering the period in which he lived: for he reverted to the school of Vignola and Palladio of the beginning of the sixteenth century, instead of adopting the perversions of the French and Italian schools of his own period, represented by Blondel and Bernini; men of genius, but instances of artificial aberration in the former, and of extravagant puerility in the latter. These weaknesses our great architect avoided, and gave us the building of which we are justly proud, and which we must not spoil.

The "Parentalia" published by the grandson, and so many years after the decease, of Sir Christopher, is a mere collection from *recollection* of his opinions; and it is to be remarked, that we do not find the words "high altar" or "baldachino" used by the grandfather. But here and there in his reports and notes of his journey to Paris peep out evidences of his real individual simple taste. "The Palace, or, if you please, the Cabinet of Versailles, called me twice to view it; the mixture of brick, stone, blue tile, and gold makes it look a rich livery. Not an inch within but is crowded with little curiosities of ornament. The women, as they make here the language and fashions, and meddle with politics and philosophy, &c., so they sway in architecture. Works of filagrand and little knacks are in great vogue; but building certainly ought to have the attribute of eternal, and, therefore, the only thing uncapable of new fashions."

Let us hope that the dean and chapter will not enact the parts of the French ladies of the time of Louis XIV., but call to mind these pregnant words of the fourteenth homily of our Church:—"The outrageous decking of temples and churches with gold, silver, pearl, and precious stones shall be confuted; fancying antirily that all people should be more moved to due reverence of the house of God, if all corners thereof were glorious and glistering with gold and precious stones!"

T. L. DONALDSON.

Value of City Property.—An instance of the great value of City leaseholds occurred on Friday, last week, at the Auction Mart, when Messrs. Frank Lewis & Kemp sold for no less a sum than 27,500*l.* the lease of the premises No. 31, Threadneedle-street, granted by the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1855, for 80 years, at 315*l.* a-year. The property is now sublet as offices.

NEW CHURCH AT KENNINGTON.

A LARGE and costly new church, dedicated to St. Agnes, is about to be erected at Kennington, immediately to the north-east of Kennington Park, on a portion of the site formerly occupied as a vitriol works, and the foundation-stone was laid last week by the Hon. C. Wood. The church, which has been designed by Mr. Gilbert G. Scott, will be in the Decorated style, and the materials externally will be red Luton brick, with Doulting stone dressings. The building will be of unusual length, being 145 ft. long, by 65 ft. wide. It will present three prominent elevations: one to the south, and two others, to the east and west respectively. The south elevation will contain five four-light traceried windows, with a lofty traceried window at the transept, and six square clearstory windows above. At the west elevation, where will be the principal entrance, there will be a tower and spire, 120 ft. in height; whilst the east elevation will contain a lofty traceried window, 40 ft. in height and 18 ft. in width, surmounted by a gable; the extreme height of this portion of the building being 73 ft. The height of the nave to the ridge of a high-pitched roof will be 70 ft., and the aisles will be 32 ft. high. Internally the church will be 138 ft. long and 62 ft. wide, the nave and aisles being 66 ft. long; whilst the remaining portion is taken up by the chancel and altar, which will be approached from the entrance-screen by nine steps, the floor-level of the altar being 5 ft. higher than the body of the church. The nave will be divided from the aisles by columns and arches of Doulting stone, and the internal walls will be faced with grey Luton brick, with red brick quoins, the lower portion being panelled round with wood to the height of 8 ft. Instead of the ordinary open roof, that in the aisles will be groined; whilst the nave and chancel roof will be continuously barrelled. The interior will contain one or two special features. One of these is a rood-loft, or gallery, which crosses the church over the chancel arch. This rood-loft will be flanked with figures of St. Mary and St. John,* and on each side the organ will be placed, in two divisions. As the musical services in the church are intended to be of a ritualistic character, the rood-loft will contain an orchestral band on festival occasions. At the west end there is also to be a gallery of peculiar construction, and designed for the processional services of the church. It will be approached at either end by a flight of broad stone steps, leading into the church, and will be used only for the procession, which will ascend into the gallery, and pass down again into the church at the other end, thus avoiding the crowd of those who usually assemble at the west doors. The estimated cost of the church is 11,000*l.* Messrs. Dove, Bros., are the contractors.

INTENDED COMPLETION OF THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

A FEW years ago, designs were arranged for the completion of the Museum buildings at South Kensington, but it was considered by the last Government, when they came into power, that less money would do all that was necessary, and designs were prepared for a less costly building. Nothing, however, was done towards carrying them out. Last week a meeting was held, at which were present the Duke of Richmond (president of the Council), Lord Sandon, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Commissioner of her Majesty's Works, Mr. W. H. Smith of the Treasury, Capt. Galton, Sir F. Sandford, Gen. Scott, and all the officials, when the idea of a cheaper building was given up, and Gen. Scott was directed to prepare a model of a design for completing the structure in a manner befitting its purpose and contents.

Lead-poisoning.—The *Lancet* has called attention to the large number of cases of lead-poisoning now under treatment in the East-end of London from the numerous white-lead factories in that district. In an article "On the influence of certain chemical manufactures on health" the question of lead-impregnation is fully discussed. It appears the precautionary measures, if vigorously enforced, would be sufficient to prevent the entrance of lead into the system; but, unhappily, these measures are not enforced, and, consequently, the wretched operatives speedily fall victims to the poison.

* Mr. G. G. Scott is playing with fire.

THE FRENCH PICTURE GALLERY.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

WANT of space has prevented us from noticing hitherto any pictures in the French Gallery, which was not opened when our former notes were made; and the collection as a whole is very inferior to those of preceding years. But a word is due to the collection of fine portraits by Mdlle. Nelie Jacquemart, which form the most important contribution to the gallery, and illustrate very well the talents of an artist who is not at present much known among us. There are nine of these portraits exhibited, all characterised by great simplicity and breadth of style, and a power of realising character and expression in countenance and attitude, without effort or pretentiousness. That of Marshal Canrobert (144), leaning on one arm, and looking upward as if about to reply to some one who has just addressed him, is a fortunate example of easy and natural pose in portraiture; but the favourite with most spectators will probably be the half-length portrait of the Comtesse Plater-Zeberg (150), exhibiting a countenance full of interest and intellect, and in which the artist has caught evidently the typical expression of the face in its best moments—the great art of portrait-painting. The full length of "La Baronne Gaston de Montesquieu" (146) is very dignified in pose and in the fall of the full and heavy dress, though the flesh tints here strike us as wanting in clearness and transparency. A very characteristic portrait is the half-length (147) of a lady in the act of walking past the spectator, and with a countenance and air so redolent of Parisian "good society," that we might almost expect to hear her announced as "Mdme. Octave de Camps," or some other one of the dignified women of the world who figure in the pages of Balzac. Mdlle. Jacquemart's paintings are portraits pure and simple, with no accessories for the most part, but some indication of background in a single tone: the bust portrait of an old gray-haired lady (149) is happily relieved against a warm red ground; and in the sitting figure of the "Comtesse de la Poëze" (145), one of the most characteristic portraits of the group, a very successful and pleasant harmony of colour is achieved by means of the dark purple tippet, light dress of a kindred tint, and the orange-toned sofa cushion; all the tones comparatively low, but clear.

Among other things in the gallery may be noticed one of the noblest works of Daubigny, "Lever de Lune" (80), in which the moon really seems to radiate a mild light; and a finely-composed landscape, by M. Karl Pierre Daubigny, "Les Creuniers à Hennequeville" (81), proves that the elder artist of the name has a worthy successor in his son. "Un Cauchemar" (4), by Antigna, is a very good specimen of the class of nude studies in which the artists of France are considered by some to excel rather too much. In this case there is a real motive and interest in the delineation of unconscious bodily action under mental pressure. In this respect the work is a great contrast to the mere vulgar display of Serres's "Le Sieste," on the opposite wall. Collette's "Paysanne de Cernay-la-Ville" (68) is a study of an old countenance, depicted with much feeling and pathos. A river landscape by the late Paul Huet, "Le Laïta" (134), is full of a rich and quiet poetry; and interest of a high kind attaches to Lévy's "La Lettre" (185), where the beautiful receiver of the epistle has thrown herself on her knees before the ottoman, forgetful of everything but the evidently very interesting contents of her letter. The picture, a large one, displays that highly-elaborated luxury of furniture and accessories to which artists of the school of Goupil have habituated us; but it has the "one touch of nature" which puts palace and cottage on the same level, and makes the human interest predominant over the mere accompaniments of the scene.

The special catalogue of the French works exhibited, published by the "Commissariat Général," is admirably got up, both as to form and matter.

Removal of the Monument.—It is proposed, according to the *City Press*, by a committee of the Corporation, to take down and rebuild the Monument, as the cheapest way of effecting an improvement in connexion with the proposed new street in that part of the City. We trust our usually well-informed contemporary has been misinformed.

ERECTION OF NEW SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AT THE METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

THE Cattle Markets Committee of the Corporation of the City of London have brought forward an important proposal to construct twenty additional slaughter-houses in Copenhagen Fields, upon ground on the east side of the Metropolitan Cattle Market, contiguous to the Great Northern Railway, the estimated cost being 26,000*l*. A report upon the subject was laid before the Corporation, at their meeting last week, and Mr. Fricker, in moving its adoption, said that, under certain sanitary regulations, slaughter-houses might be allowed to continue in suburban districts, but he believed that the authorities would, as long as they could, insist upon their being closed in the crowded districts of the metropolis, where there were 1,500 private slaughter-houses. He said that in crowded districts private slaughter-houses were a nuisance, and in confirmation of this statement he instanced the report by Mr. Liddle and Dr. Tidy to the Commissioners of Sewers, on the state of the slaughter-houses in the City. This report showed that there were twenty-eight licensed slaughter-houses within the City, the sites on which they were built, and their surroundings in the majority of cases being exceedingly objectionable. The entrances in the majority of cases were narrow, and the ventilation and lighting were both deficient. The report of the Cattle Markets Committee, in strongly recommending the desirability of erecting the slaughter-houses as proposed, stated that in respect of the present slaughter-houses in the City, the nuisance in Aldgate High-street, to foot-passengers, was very great, owing to the offensive smell, the dirty condition of the pavement, the drippings from the entrails, the carrying of the carcasses, and the wheeling of barrows filled with dung and other offensive matters along the pavement. This would all be avoided in the proposed slaughter-houses, the arrangement being that each slaughter-house should be a detached building, having an open space of several feet in width between it and any dwelling-house; and it would not be so situated in a public thoroughfare as to enable passers-by to see what was going on inside. The walls would be constructed of a non-porous material, and of such a nature as to allow of their being scraped, and then thoroughly washed with soap and water. The drainage would be complete in every respect, the drains being well trapped, and the iron gratings over the traps being firmly fixed, so as to prevent their being removed, whereby the washing of all *débris* and garbage into the drains, which would be liable to choke them, would be prevented. A covered receptacle to contain the garbage and all refuse would also be provided, to be emptied daily, before seven o'clock in the morning. The floorings would be of asphalte. Mr. Fricker added that the extent of land which the committee proposed to appropriate for the slaughter-houses was nine acres and a half, and that fifteen persons, all of the highest respectability, were prepared to carry on business in them. It was proposed that the rents should vary with the size, from 130*l*. to 30*l*. a year. The discussion on the subject was adjourned to the next meeting.

LEICESTER SQUARE NINETY YEARS AGO.

PENDENT to what was said in these pages lately, the annexed extract, from Walpole's "New and Complete British Traveller," may not be out of place:—"Leicester Fields is a very spacious place, containing an area of between two and three acres. It takes its name from Leicester House, a large building on the north side, which was originally the mansion of the Earl of Leicester, and afterwards the residence of Frederick Prince of Wales, father of his present Majesty [George III.]. It is now occupied by Sir Ashton Lever, as a repository of the numerous curiosities collected by that gentleman. Adjoining to this is another large building, called Saville House, which was formerly the winter residence of his present Majesty, when Prince of Wales, but since of Sir George Saville. The inner part of the square is inclosed with iron rails, and adorned with grass-plots and gravel-walks. In the centre is a gilt equestrian statue of his late Majesty King George II. The buildings that surround the square are in general very uniform, spacious, and handsome, and are chiefly inhabited by persons of distinction." The volume from which the above extract is taken is a large-sized gazetteer of 520 pages, profusely illustrated with views of public buildings, landscapes, lordly mansions, and county maps of Great Britain and Ireland. It bears the imprint of "Alex Hogg, at the King's Arms, No. 16, Paternoster-row, 1784." Does any octogenarian citizen remember gold-leaf, or the vestige of it, on the statue in Leicester-square, and how long is it since the very uniform houses spoken of ceased to exist? However, as the old adage has it, "All is not lost that's in danger." To which the public may reply,—"Granted."

THE ST. GEORGE'S VESTRY HALL.

THE General Purposes Committee of the St. George's Vestry, at their last meeting, submitted a proposal for the alteration of the vestry-hall, and the removal of the gallery, with a view to improve the sounding properties, and the general convenience; and also to provide a new committee-room which should be free from the noise and traffic passing along the road. The estimated cost is 450*l*. Objection was taken by several members of the vestry to that part of the proposal which involves the removal of the gallery, one gentleman observing that if the gallery was removed and the space thrown into the hall it would be nothing better than a large tank. He added that in the event of the gallery being taken away there would not be any accommodation for the public, a state of things which was very undesirable. That portion of the proposed alterations referring to the removal of the gallery was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

RE-OPENING OF ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

AT the completion of what may be termed its third stage of restoration, the ancient Church of St. Benedict in Bene't-street, Cambridge, has been re-opened for divine service. The tower of this old church is a very ancient structure, and corresponds in some respects with the four celebrated Northamptonshire churches. The bells in this tower for many years have not been rung; but they were set swinging last week. With regard to the details of the present stage of restoration, the south aisle has been rebuilt, and covered with a roof the interior of which consists of Memel timber (flat curve) with tracery, spiral-panels, hammer-beams trussed by carved corbels representing angels and foliage. The new chancel had a Gothic roof of the same timber, carved ribs with intermediate mouldings dividing the roof into panels, and hammer-beams with carved corbels. There is a new (Gothic) chancel arch, which does not finish on the foundation, but is trussed off with circular corbels; it is of moulded stone, and gives effect to the chancel. The outline stone-work of the two early English lancet windows has been preserved in the south wall of the chancel, together with the O-G sedilia-arch, piscina, and doorway which probably led to the rood-loft; the doorway leading on to the rood-loft itself has been preserved in the south-east wall of the nave. The new communion-table of wainscot on oak plinth has turned legs and mullions, and carved rails, with representations of wheat and the vine—emblematic of the sacrament. Above the super-altar a space has been left in which it is intended to place panels in coloured mosaic. The new flooring consists, in the chancel, of ornamental encaustic tiles of the fleur-de-lis pattern, whilst that in the nave and aisles is of plain black and red encaustic tiles. The new wainscot pews in the nave and south aisle have tracery-panels with moulded tops, the moulding of the rail corresponding with that on the end; and the seats in the north aisle will eventually be superseded by similar benches. The church is to be lighted by a corona in the centre of the nave and ornamental jets proceeding from the aisle walls. The churchyard has been lowered. The cost of the present restoration is about 1,500*l*. The architect is Mr. A. W. Blomfield; and the builders are Messrs. Dove, Brothers, of Islington, who have been represented during the progress of the work by Mr. C. B. Westcott.

Tonbridge.—The plans for the new Town-hall at Tonbridge have been approved by the Local Board, and the building will be at once commenced.

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WORKS IN SCOTLAND.

The New Harbour Works at Anstruther.—These works are now approaching completion. They were commenced so far back as 1866, and have already cost upwards of 60,000*l*. Last week the western breakwater, which is built wholly of concrete, was finished; and the outer section of the east pier, which was overthrown during a storm some two or three years ago, is being rebuilt of concrete and without the parapet-wall.

Sale of a Portion of the Island of Harris.—It is stated that Lord Clifford has purchased from the Earl of Dunmore the southern part of Harris, in the Long Island. The price paid for this, the last portion of Harris in possession of the Earl, is said to be at least 120,000*l*. Mr. Scott, a London banker, bought the north part of Harris some three years ago for 150,000*l*. The rental of the whole of the island is about 5,000*l*.

Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.—Every effort is being made to complete the arrangements in that portion of the museum which is at present closed to the public. Among other novelties a somewhat remarkable work of art has just been introduced. It is a reredos of terra-cotta, in three panels, each 5 ft. long by 2 ft. 6 in. broad. They are the work of Mr. Tinworth, whose successful efforts in the restoration of Old English and German styles of pottery have done so much to enhance the reputation of art-pottery produced by Messrs. Doulton, of Lambeth. Only two copies of this reredos have been made, the companion to that at Edinburgh being in the exhibition of the Royal Academy in London. The left-hand panel represents the Betrayal, the centre the Taking Down from the Cross, and the one on the right the scenes at the foot of the Cross. They are spirited and effective works.

The Scarcity of Water in Scotland.—Complaints as to present or prospective scarcity of water are general in various districts of Scotland. In Glasgow, which derives a plentiful general supply from Loch Katrine, the inhabitants of the south side of the river nevertheless consider themselves aggrieved. Last week two influential deputations, representing owners of property and the various Fire Insurance Companies doing business in the city, waited on the Water Companies to complain of the inferior quality and limited quantity of the water supplied on the south side of the Clyde. The deputations presented a very strong case, calling special attention to the great destruction of property which had recently been sustained in the district on account of the want of water to extinguish fires. The result was the preparation of an elaborate report by the engineer, Mr. Gale. The following reasons among others are advanced to account for the alleged insufficiency; viz.,—1st. Pipes while still sufficient for the ordinary domestic and manufacturing purposes get corroded inside, and thus lessened in diameter. 2nd. Large works are built on the outskirts of the town, and streets with only dwelling-houses, where fire seldom occurs, get suddenly converted into warehouses or factories, where fires are frequent. 3rd. The great size of the warehouses and factories recently erected was quite unknown twenty years ago. They are, moreover, built in many cases in a confined space for the sake of economy, in such a way that a fire is more confined, and has fewer thick walls to prevent its spreading, while the materials stored are constantly increasing in quantity and value. No less than fifteen miles of old pipes have been lifted during the last six years and replaced by larger pipes; this being at the rate of 2½ miles a year. At Dundee the supply has been cut off for the greater part of the day. At Paisley the authorities have issued precautions against unnecessary waste, and at Greenock a committee has just drawn up a report on the best means of checking the waste. In some cases where fittings were bad, the committee found that as much as 256 gallons per head per day were lost by passing through taps and closets, where, if the fittings had been in good order, the quantity consumed could not have been above 20 gallons per head per day, and in some cases much less. At Selkirk, until the occurrence of a thunderstorm last week, there was not sufficient water-power to drive the wheel in connexion with the works by which the water is sent from the collecting-well up to the reservoir. When the new water-works now in progress in various parts of the country are complete, it is hoped, that, even with continued dry weather, there will be a more plentiful supply.

Progress of the Glasgow Harbour Works.—The splendid series of works being carried out by the Clyde Trustees on the opposite sides of the river Clyde, at Stobcross and Plantation, are making progress, though the appearance of advancement on the north bank bears no comparison with the air of completeness which the south quay is gradually assuming. The continuation of the fine wharfage at Plantation is being energetically carried on, the line of quay having been formed from Plantation shed several hundred yards down the harbour. The large crane fixed on the wharf at this point shows satisfactory signs of progress. Lower down the river the graving dock is beginning to show its magnificent proportions to great effect, and though the nature of the works yet to be completed will preclude its being entirely finished before the end of the year, still the dock presents a very forward appearance.

MONT ST. MICHEL.

ALL who feel an interest in the preservation of the magnificent monuments of ecclesiastical architecture bequeathed to us by our Mediæval ancestors must have read with real pleasure an announcement which appeared in the daily papers not long ago to the effect that the French Government had declared the Abbey of Mont St. Michel to be "a national monument"; or in other words, that the Government had undertaken the responsibility of its preservation, and as far as necessary of its restoration.

It is perhaps not too much to say that there exists at the present day no monastic building of large scale which is so well preserved and so curious as the Abbey of Mont St. Michel. The great singularity of its position upon a lofty rock rising out of a shallow bay, which is only covered by water during a few hours of the day, and is at other times a vast stretching plain of sand, and the remote antiquity of its foundation, give this abbey an extraordinary amount of interest; and when to these is added the great architectural value of the buildings, it will be seen that the act of the French Government is one of the greatest importance to the archæological world.

The best way to visit Mont St. Michel is by taking a coach from Dol, from which place to Pont Orson the road passes through a charming and fertile country. The first view of the abbey and the bay is gained from the top of a lofty hill, which is crossed by the road about three miles before arriving at the town of Pont Orson. Beyond the last-named place the road becomes flat and uninteresting.

The entrance, or rather approach to the Mount, is formed by a kind of small beach only, extending for a few yards along part of the base of the rock. Passing through a gate of fourteenth-century work, defended by two cannons, which are said to have been taken from the English, one is admitted into the singular winding street which forms the town or village, and in order to approach the abbey can either follow this winding street and admire the picturesque and beautiful old houses on either side, or, by ascending the ramparts and following them up a number of flights of steps, a more extended view of the little town can be gained. About half way up to the abbey is the singular little parish church, with its apse built over the footway of the road, and its quaint "saddleback" tower.

The gateway to the abbey is a castellated structure, defended by two round towers, and is shown in our engraving. Passing through this, one ascends a lofty flight of steps, which leads to a second gateway and the porter's lodge; upon ringing a bell here, the great oak door is opened, and the visitor is admitted into a vaulted apartment, where he is waited upon by one of the lay brothers of the religious order, who occupy the monastery, and serve the abbey church. On a large counter, in the centre of this apartment, are arrayed photographs and views of the abbey, which can be purchased for reasonable prices; and, as the proceeds are devoted to the restoration of the building, most people purchase here some view or *souvenir* of their visit to the abbey. A small charge is made for showing the abbey to strangers, but ample time is given for inspecting all its curiosities.

Until about twelve years ago this interesting and beautiful building was used as a convict prison, and its noble walls were cut up by floors and whitewashed, and the church was disfigured by brick partitions. Since it was given up as a prison, it has been let upon lease to a religious community, who have slowly but judiciously carried out a partial restoration of the church and several of the halls; much, however, still remains to be done, especially the restoration of the dormitory, which was terribly disfigured by partitions, floors, plaster, &c.; the cloisters, which are still disfigured by a plaster ceiling; the spire of the church; and the high altar fittings and stained glass.

To describe the general plan and arrangement of this building, or series of buildings, would be impossible, nor could it even be explained by a ground-plan, as the buildings and apartments occur on so many different levels that nothing short of a model would enable one to realise their respective positions. It may, however, be stated roughly that the buildings in plan form the letter D, inclosing the church in the centre, and the straight side of the letter is formed by a building called "La Merveille." This building is of the very finest thirteenth-century architecture, and contains five superb vaulted halls supported by rows of columns. Over a portion of this building are the cloisters, which communicate with the nave of the church, which it will thus be seen is on a much higher level than the "Merveille."

The church consists of a fine Romanesque nave and transepts, and, perhaps, the most magnificent Flamboyant choir and chevêt in existence. The choir is surrounded by aisles and radiating chapels, and supported by noble flying buttresses adorned with a profusion of pinnacles. In the choir the piers are very richly moulded, and are without capitals. The clearstory is very lofty, and entirely pierced by large windows. The triforium is glazed, but what especially strikes the visitor in this choir is the great beauty of the vaulting, especially in the apse. In the chapels surrounding the apse are some interesting examples of late carving, especially an altar with a reredos filled with small panels representing various scenes from the "Passion" carved in alabaster: these probably date from the fifteenth century. In the Lady Chapel is a new altar, with the reredos and frontal covered with plates of silver richly chased and enamelled. It is a good example of modern French ecclesiastical art, carefully and delicately executed. Over the high altar is a large statue of St. Michael, also of silver, and, like the altar in the lady-chapel, executed with considerable care and skill. At present the church, although very fine, has rather a bare, unfurnished look, but this will be remedied when sufficient funds can be obtained for the purpose. In the choir are some ancient stalls of a plain but good design. Beneath the choir is a very fine crypt, the vaulting ribs and archmoulds of which die on to huge cylindrical columns without capitals. This crypt is used as an oratory, and is well preserved and cared for; in fact, the greatest praise is due to the religious order who have carried out the repairs, and taken much care of this magnificent ancient abbey.

Of course, only a very small portion of the abbey is inhabited, and we cannot help thinking that if the monks would arrange some of the many unused chambers of the abbey to form a kind of hotel, as is done at the Great St. Bernard, they would confer a great boon upon the public, and find their funds very considerably increased. The present "hôtels" on the island are everything that is bad; so much so, that few people will venture to spend a night upon the island; but if by writing beforehand there were a possibility of obtaining a room and a simple and wholesome meal in the abbey, we feel sure that many people would take advantage of it, and would be quite willing to pay something extra for such accommodation. This is done in several of the religious houses on the Continent, and was a common practice during the Middle Ages, and we should be glad to see it adopted at Mont St. Michel.

BUILDING SITE IN THE NORTH.

AN estate over one mile in length, and of proportionate depth, extending from near the principal railway station at Darlington, in the county of Durham, to the leading thoroughfare of Bondgate, intersecting a large part of the town, has just been purchased of Mr. Spark, by a Company, for 70,000*l*., and is to be devoted to building purposes, where a want of suitable land for dwellings, manufactories, and public buildings, has long been felt.

First-class mansions, shops, and workmen's houses are to be first built, and the whole undertaking, it is expected, will employ an army of building operatives several years. As hands are very scarce to be procured in the North of England, the Company may find some difficulty in obtaining sufficient men for their works.

THE ABBEY OF MONT ST. MICHEL, FRANCE.

THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL OF MUSIC, KENSINGTON.—DESIGNED BY LIEUT. H. H. COLE, R.E.

[See p. 599 ante.

TREATMENT OF ARCHITECTS IN AMERICA.

We are urged by some impartial correspondents to protest against the summary dismissal by the Commissioners of the Central Park, New York, of Mr. Jacob Wrey Mould from the post he has filled for sixteen years as Associate Architect and Architect in Chief to the Central Park and the Parks Department. We should be glad if we could use any words that would lead the Commissioners to reconsider their determination, but this is scarcely likely. It is evidently a hard case. The New York *World* says:—

"The removal of Mr. J. Wrey Mould is a shame and a disgrace to the Park Commissioners, which the public will expect them at once to redress. The excuse of necessary economy is trash, if nothing worse. Mr. Mould's eminence among our architects is unquestioned, and it is not merely his eminence as an architect that has made him supremely fit for the position he has held. Other architects possess equal, one or two architects very likely superior, ability in certain directions. Mr. Mould's distinction is the plastic versatility which has enabled him to do such various good works as he has done for the city, and the wide range of his accomplishment and his taste. Under ordinary circumstances, half a dozen architects would have been required to do the work which he has done alone, and which he has done in all cases with inventive genius and trained skill. The removal of such a man from a post for which he is so eminently fit, and to which he has given some of the best years of his life, and where the best work of his best remaining years is still requisite, is a public scandal and indecency."

We remember well Mr. Mould's skill as a designer. He acted as chief assistant to Mr. Lewis Vulliamy in building Dorchester House some twenty years ago, and was the executant of the second volume (details) of the "Alhambra" when under his articles with the late Mr. Owen Jones. When he was leaving for America, Owen Jones laid his hand on his shoulder and said to him, "Jacob, the Americans will wring you out like a wet rag, then drop you like a hot potato." Let us hope that his words may not be realised. Sixteen years' service, with much good work to show as the result, ought not to be disregarded by a public body disposed to do justice.

ACTION FOR LIBELLING AN ARCHITECT.

BURNHAM *v.* PHILLIMORE.

THE plaintiff in this action, at the Court of Queen's Bench, before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, is an architect and surveyor, of High Wycombe, Bucks; and the defendant is the rector of Radnage, Bucks.

Mr. Powell, Q.C., in explaining the case to the jury, said, in 1870 the guardians of the Wycombe Union selected Mr. Burnham, the plaintiff, as the architect and surveyor to build infectious wards, and his client's plans were approved by the Local Government Board. The building was erected for 560*l.*, and the plaintiff's commission was 28*l.*, and 6*l.* 6*s.* for expenses of journeys. The building was originally intended to be placed at the back of the workhouse, but it was erected almost in a line with it, and a portion of it fronted the road; and being very plain, its appearance was somewhat unsightly in that position; which fact seemed to have given dissatisfaction to some of the guardians, chiefly to the defendant, who as rector of the parish, was an *ex-officio* guardian, but it seemed to rankle in his mind. Two years afterwards, when the question of appointing another surveyor for other works was discussed by the guardians, the reverend defendant made some observations of which the plaintiff now complained, and for this slander on his client's professional reputation, the jury were asked to give exemplary damages; and by so doing, set the plaintiff right before the world. No doubt, the defence set up would be that this *ex-officio* guardian was actuated by a sense of public duty, but he thought it would be shown by the evidence that the reverend gentleman's remarks were influenced rather by a desire to get another surveyor appointed instead of the plaintiff, than by a *bond fide* belief that the work was badly done. The case was not only of great importance to the reputation of Mr. Burnham, but of considerable interest to architects, surveyors, and builders who were engaged by public Boards.

A reporter who attended the meetings of the Board of Guardians read his short-hand notes of the discussion in reference to the appointment of a surveyor and selection of tenders for the carrying out of alterations to the infirmary. At the first meeting, the defendant proposed that Mr. Carter, of Great Marlow, should be appointed to prepare plans, and be the surveyor; and when asked by another guardian what was his reason for so doing, the plaintiff having prepared a preliminary plan, said he did so because the infectious wards were very unsatisfactory; the stairs were not sufficiently propped up and made firm; if you went upstairs you knocked your hat, and the door was too small, and altogether Burnham did not satisfactorily overlook the work; and if the Building Committee had not done their duty, the Board would be suffering from bad surveyorship. The defendant also complained of the way Mr. Loosley, the builder, had done the work; the windows were badly put in; but if Mr. Carter were appointed surveyor instead of Mr. Burnham, he should not mind Mr. Loosley being again employed as builder: he should not object, as he would be looked after. He also said, "I complain of the surveyor quite as much, or more, as any of the others. They are all equally bad. I wish this Board would have the infectious infirmary surveyed by Mr. Carter, and have his report. I asked him about it the other day, and he said it was so badly done that it was perfectly disgraceful to the union,—that is my authority." This was the chief part of the libel complained of.'

Mr. Burnham, the plaintiff, stated that he was surveyor to the Town Council and the Local Board of Wycombe, and having confirmed his counsel's statement, continued—No doubt the building looked somewhat unsightly through its position being altered from the original design. Mr. Loosley was employed as the contractor, and Smith & Fletcher did the brickwork. He had carefully measured and examined the work, and it was in accordance with the plans and specification, both in quantity and quality. He was very strict with the builder, and on one occasion had a dispute with him with reference to the size of the doors. The builder appealed to the guardians, who declined to interfere. There was no pretence for saying that he certified for the builder without his being justly entitled to his certificate. There was no foundation for the observations made by the defendant, and he attributed his losing the employment in connexion with the infirmary to the defendant's remarks. He instructed three professional gentlemen, Messrs. Gray, Edgington, and Holland, to inspect the infectious ward. The guardians said the brickwork was done very well, but the defendant complained of a joist being too near the landing, which was rectified. There was no complaint of deviation from the plan. Did not tell the Board that the buildings were not carried out according to plan, or that if alterations were made it would weaken the building. One guardian remarked that taking out the joist would weaken the building, but witness said "No." The building was shut up with no ventilation three months after it was built, and the ceiling was cracked in consequence, and the woodwork swelled, which was all attributable to neglect on the guardians' part.

Mr. Thomas Edgington, architect, of Windsor, said, in conjunction with Mr. Gray and Mr. Holland, he visited the infectious ward, for the purpose of reporting upon the material and workmanship. He found no bad materials, and he would say that Mr. Burnham had done his duty. He found no fault in the workmanship whatever.

Other similar evidence was given.

Mr. T. Prentice, Q.C., for the defendant, submitted, as a matter of law, that the libel complained of was a privileged communication to the guardians in the interest of the ratepayers, and that there was no case to go before the jury.

The Lord Chief Justice said he should not stop the case on such grounds.

The counsel at once called the Rev. George Phillimore, the defendant, who said he had been rector of Radnage for many years, and had taken great interest in all county matters. In 1870 he was on the building committee for the infectious ward, and they found the doors were too narrow and the stairs so constructed that a man might knock his head, and Mr. Burnham acknowledged that the doors were not according to the plan, and witness was not satisfied with it. The surveyor gave a great deal of trouble, and they could never get at him. The clerk was instructed to write to the surveyor to know if the building was being constructed according to the plans and specifications, especially with regard to a stone slab; and Mr. Burnham admitted that it was not so carried out. Witness went over the building last Saturday and found the ceilings cracked, and there were openings at the bottom of the front door. In 1872 the floor did not come up to the skirting-board, the windows did not appear to be well put in, and the floors were not flat. He did not observe the ceiling in 1872. They thought the brickwork badly done in 1872. They (the committee) thought the work was "scamped." Mr. Carter, the county surveyor, said it was disgraceful or discreditable, he did not know which.

In cross-examination, the defendant said he had employed Mr. Carter to build schools and stables, but he was not a friend of his. He made no complaint until the building was constructed, and he made none to the plaintiff personally. Mr. Burnham had a dispute with the contractor, which was rectified.

Mr. Charles King, guardian, farmer, and builder, said he was asked to go and look at the building, with Mr. Pepper, another builder. A large pane of glass had been blown out. Mr. Pepper said the lintel could not have been very strong, and that there ought to have been a relieving arch. He called Mr. Pepper's attention to cracks in the ceiling. His opinion was that the second coat of plaster was put on before the first was dry. The window-sashes were very slightly-made (1½ in.), and the door appeared too small. His opinion was that the interior of the building was very middling. The cracks were still there, and arose from the ceiling joists being insufficient. Did not know whether the sashes and other things were according to specification, although he was a member of the building committee.

Mr. C. Carter said he was county surveyor for Buckinghamshire. Remembered making a statement to Mr. Phillimore, the defendant, in 1872. Before that he went through the building, and noticed that the wet had come badly through the walls. The ceilings were very much bagged or rounded, and the sashes of the window shook. Considered that some of the work was very badly done. Had he been surveyor, he should not have passed it in the state in which he saw it. Only went into the building casually. Has not a very good recollection of what he said to the defendant; cannot say if he said it was disgraceful.

Other witnesses being examined, the Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, observed that in a case of this kind, where a body of persons entrusted with public interests were discussing those interests, nothing was more natural than that they should feel perfect freedom; and, although the jury might come to the opinion that the statements of the defendant transgressed the limits of exact truth: nevertheless, if they were of opinion that he acted *bond fide* in the honest discharge of what he believed to be his duty, the occasion was privileged, and they must give him their verdict. The occasion being privileged, it was for the plaintiff to show malice on defendant's part. It was not necessary that there should be personal animosity shown, and if they considered that the defendant, actuated not by the honest desire to do his duty to the ratepayers, but by the desire to get another surveyor appointed, and that he made statements which he knew to be untrue, or made them so recklessly that he might be taken to have known them to be untrue, then the slander was proved and the plaintiff was entitled to a verdict with substantial damages.

The jury, without retiring, found a verdict for the defendant.

The Wilkes Obelisk.—Attention has been called to the decaying and dilapidated condition of the obelisk erected at the foot of Ludgate-hill by the citizens of London to the memory of John Wilkes.

MONUMENTAL.

The Wilberforce Memorial.—A meeting of the subscribers to the Wilberforce Memorial Fund was held in Willis's Rooms. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and amongst those present were the Bishops of Winchester, Rochester, Carlisle, Peterborough, and Guildford. The meeting unanimously adopted the committee's suggestion that the memorial should take the form of a home, to be called "Wilberforce House," where a body of missionary clergy should be maintained, especially for the South London portion of the diocese of Winchester. The contributions now amount to 11,000*l.*, and the annual subscriptions to 174*l.*

Unveiling of the Perkins Monument at Birtley. The ceremony of unveiling the monument erected at Birtley (by public subscription), to the memory of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins, has been performed by Mr. Isaac Lowthian Bell, in presence of a large number of the people of Birtley and district, and about five hundred volunteers of the Administrative Battalion of the Durham Rifle Volunteers. The monument is of marble and stone, and upwards of 20 ft. high. The statue alone is 8 ft. 1 in. high, and executed in Sicilian marble. It is draped in the uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel of Volunteers, and stands in a position of ease with the hands resting on the sword. The pedestal is executed of Prudham stone, and is of a simple classic character, with a series of basements, dado and cap moulded, and is further enriched with granite slabs. On the front panel is the following inscription:—"Erected to the Memory of Edward Mosley Perkins, of Birtley Hall, Lieut.-Col. 1st Add. Batt. D.R.V., 1874."

Longton: in Memoriam.—In the recently published report of the Rector of Longton, in reviewing his parish work for the past year, there occurs this passage:—"Death has removed from us among others one of the churchwardens, whose interest in the church we acknowledge, and regret his loss. The east window, which was his latest gift, is on its way from the maker while these lines are being written, and will be a lasting memorial of the goodwill which its donor constantly expressed towards the parish." The donor referred to was the late Mr. Alfred Glover, of Sideway House, and the gift is in memory of his wife, who died in April, 1872. Mr. Glover expressed his determination to carry out his intention in the most artistic manner possible, and with that object accepted the design of Mons. J. B. Capronnier, of Brussels, who has executed similar works in other parts of England. The wish of the donor has been carried out, but he has not lived to see its completion. The work has been finished within the last few days. The tracery is filled with glass of various colours. The lower portions of the window are occupied with the representation of women noted in Old and New Testament history. These are produced in almost life size. The upper compartment contains four figures—Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, holding the infant prophet Samuel in her arms, and Ruth, bearing in her arms a sheaf of corn. The lower compartment represents Mary, the sister of Lazarus, Elizabeth and the infant St. John, the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus, and Mary Magdalene. The eight figures are canopied. The cost will be about 300*l.*

THE FOUL STATE OF THE LIFFEY AT DUBLIN.

Seven years ago a number of plans were procured. Of these the *Morning Mail* says:—

"Seven long years ago the Town Council had before them a host of plans, one or more not very unlike that now proposed by Lord Abercorn, and seven years ago all the Engineers now again appealed to gave their judgment upon these, and the contractors declared the expense, and the money was available. The very contents of this Report exhibit the completeness of the discussion which the question then received. Mr. Neville estimated the cost of dams; Mr. Stoney described the defects of intercepting sewers; Mr. Charles Geoghegan submitted a cheap plan of keeping the river-bed covered with water; Mr. Corbet's arrangement of self-acting sluices was examined; Mr. A. L. Cousins proposed to scour the river by an easy method; Professor Cameron was called, disinfectantly, into council; a Law Agent suggested the arching over of the offensive stream, and the sale of *fresh* meat and vegetables in a great public market above it; even Mr. Bazalgette had a plan for ventilating the sewers."

Mr. Geoghegan points out in the *Mail* that the Lord Lieutenant's plan has already been identified by others as resembling his low weir system, proposed in 1867, and in confirmation gives a quotation from the printed report of the special commission appointed to examine the several plans and schemes submitted at that time to the corporation for alleviating the Liffey nuisance.

GOVERNMENT AND THE COLLIERY OWNERS.

THE colliery-owners who have hitherto so shamefully disregarded common decency in their workmen's dwellings "have been playing with the bear till it has bitten them," and last week, at the instance of the Government, the two owners of the large Burnhope Colliery, viz., Mr. J. Sourby and Mr. R. Fletcher, were in the humiliating position of having to appear on summons at the Lancaster Police-court charged with not providing "accommodation" and ashpits to 120 houses connected with their colliery.

The sanitary inspector stated that only seven conveniences were attached to the whole of these houses, and they were in a most filthy and dilapidated condition. The ashpits were in a disgraceful state, and there was not one *drain* in the whole place.

Squire Fletcher said he was not aware his houses were in the state described, and Dr. Hall would tell the Court the place was free from disease.

Mr. Henry Smith, chairman of the magistrates, in great surprise, said he could not conceive how colliery-owners could visit their property without noticing the abominable condition their workmen's houses were in. With regard to their sanitary state, it was impossible the village could be in a wholesome condition, seeing that there was no drainage; and if any doctor said the village was free from disease, he should doubt his testimony. The magistrates at once ordered a convenience to be made to every two houses, proper drainage and ashpits to be made, with costs against the two defendants.

NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.

SIR,—London is too ill-supplied with objects of architectural interest for the demolition of so characteristic a specimen as Northumberland House is, to be permitted to pass unchallenged and without notice. Every individual in the community possessed of either good sense or taste is intimately concerned in the right settlement of this matter.

I spent half an hour the other evening in melancholy musing upon this noble pile, so soon to be lost to us if nobody will take action; and I directed my special attention to the block of masonry which forms the central portion and gateway of the Strand front. I always thought well of it, but was surprised to find how much better it is even than I had supposed it. With the exception of the projecting bay (or oriel, as it might, though somewhat improperly, be called), which is, perhaps, too narrow to be quite symmetrical, it is a perfect study. The whole elevation is a model of appropriateness in the use and application of flatted ornament; there is no superfluity, no flourish, no waste. The forms employed are all kindred, though infinitely varied, so that an eye the most cultivated and severely critical runs freely over its intricacies, recognising finally with delight the presence of a symphony in form. It is, in fact, the work of one of those architects, few in number, who reach what may be called the Orphic treatment of a theme when the stones seem to swing into position, and there range themselves into symmetrical doublings of part against part as in a mystical dance.

Let us take a survey of the square, and we shall soon gather reasons more than enough why the Board of Works should hesitate to remove Northumberland House. We may admit that it does not harmonise with the square, but that would be a reason for pulling the square down and not for depriving us of the only piece of good work in it. To begin with, there are the two stucco-faced eyesores, the ugly club and the hotel opposite still more ugly. Gibbs's Church, St. Martin's, calls for no particular comment as it is put in a corner out of the way, and half out of sight. It is ponderous, but it is well proportioned, and those who know what Englishmen are capable of will bless it with at least a negative benediction, as poor Peter Cunningham did, because it is far better than much subsequent work which has cost double the money.

Next we come to the National Gallery. The pitiful device of the still more to be pitied Wilkins. He finished the building and afterwards put an end to himself. Of this one can only say, as the Irishman did, "Shure 'tis a pity the jintleman couldn't take a frind's advice, to revarse the order of the actions." This same gentleman, commenting on the present situation, might be expected to descant thus: "Shure it's an act of national suicide the revarse of right for the Board of Works to destroy, and put an end to an immortal thing, and lave the National Gallery all the while standing a building that would tumble down of itself, if it was well built enough to have any architectural taste in it at all, at all, and so could feel that it hadn't got any."

On the south side of the square you have a bank and a fire-office, which are models of constructive dyspepsia, congested *ad nauseam* with debased ornament and pillars innumerable of Purbeck, porphyry, and pink Aberdeen, with gilt scroll-work and globes that look like gas-lamps. In fact, they exhibit the usual plethora of abomination that arises where money is too plentiful and taste scarce. Such buildings look as if some David had gathered the rich materials with no wisdom of Solomon succeeding to put them together. Mark these phenomena well, study them, and you may extract from them in essence the very spirit of modern street architecture, which always appears to my mind to be mathematically based on some abstract principles, or system, deduced from the five quarters of hideousness, whether you examine our highest examples, as in the new Foreign Offices, or the lowest, in perhaps some railway station or warehouse in Cannon-street.

What is that black thing which we see at the north-west corner? That place of gloomy aspect, melancholy and soot-begrimed, as if some surgeon rather than an architect had operated on its stones? An unpleasant design indeed, and yet it is appropriate, for the College looks, for all the world, as if Death had built it for the town residence of his best friend,—Physic.

The edifices are reviewed: the sister art of sculpture now invites us on. Byron had a reputation for skill in that line of criticism, but in the absence of that great master an inferior hand may approach the sacred theme and deal with it unblamed.

Behold, then, a pillar, foliate Corinthian, raised as an appropriate pedestal for Nelson, England's chief sea-captain,—mast-headed, as some say! In the Channel he was always sick, but his berth in Trafalgar-square must try him more. Trafalgar-square defeats Trafalgar,—France is avenged! A pillar is a symbol of support. It seems to support nothing when you set a man on the top of it;—

"For pygmies set on Alps are pygmies still."

This is admitted; but then in England they only place their very great men in such positions as these. The column is rendered consistent, and derives, it is supposed, an invisible appropriateness, from the great weight of their reputation. This occult principle in hideousness probably no Greek would have thought of. The column is provided with four feet, each of which is a quadruped. These feet, together with the central support, connect it again with the five quarters of hideousness, which constitute the great underlying motive of all true modern art.

Around the four beasts lies a revelation (such as no seer ever contemplated in ecstasy, unless it were a Landseer) of what may be described as a route of modern generals,—men who were never vanquished, but who if now alive would be overcome at seeing with what honour their recognisant country can load those in whom she delights. They would be, like Niobe, all tears, lest a grateful country should, after their decease, insist on turning them, like Niobe, to stone. The country votes him honours, and instantly a sculptor rises with Medusa head, and petrifies the hero, adding a fresh stone to the heap which is already congregated on the finest site in Europe,—and which is truly a sight to be seen.

Long as this letter is, I trust it is not too long. I have it much at heart that this scandal be not perpetrated, for a scandal it will be if this noble screen of Jacobean work is allowed to perish from our streets. As an object of art it is fine; as an object of history it has interest: General Monk concerted here about the Restoration. If the Percys are in want of the 500,000*l.*, let the country buy it of them. We shall soon require a special building for the National Portrait Gallery; and we might easily rearrange the interior of the house to suit this object. We want no more openings to the Embankment; but if the traffic requires it, the public have been informed by the best experts that it is perfectly easy to make suitable openings without touching a stone of the house.

We are pulling down churches by the dozen and building up Vandalic frontages by the score, public and private. It is very unwise in our Board of Works, to take the initiative in such an act. They ought rather to protect the spot, and to seek to preserve for all lovers of beauty the house that Canaletto thought worth painting. Northumberland House is one of the few things in London that a cultivated eye can rest upon without offence. We cannot afford to lose it.

C. A. WARD.

THE DECAY OF STONE IN BUILDINGS.

SIR,—Much has been said and written on the subject of the preservation of building-stone from decay, and various attempts have been made to prepare a chemical solution to meet that want; but it is certainly very much like working in the dark. The true cause of our buildings so soon crumbling to dust lies in the very first operation of the building, viz., in the preparing of the stones by the masons; and if ever we are to have a building that will stand the atmosphere in a satisfactory manner, a radical change must be made in the masons' shop.

Competition has for some time been at such a pitch that builders are compelled to cut their estimates down to the lowest item possible, and, as a natural result, the mechanic is drawn into the vortex of competition with his fellow-workmen, as the contractor is on the look-out to keep the men that can turn out the greatest amount of work. Now this is all fair and reasonable, but then that brings us face to face with the evil; and, by way of illustration, let us step into the masons' shop (some of us have been there before) and watch the working of one single stone. The mason is given a piece of stone for a certain purpose, and it is very likely there may be several others just starting on a similar piece for the same purpose; and now comes the tug of war, each one being anxious to have his job off the banker first. The mason will start by making either a bed or face to it, as he may consider best; and to do this he will have to reduce it to a fair surface by using a hammer something like six pounds in weight, and a heavy punch to match; and if he is a good mason he will punch it down quite close to the intended surface; then with a heavy mallet and a wide chisel, he will go over it to make it level and smooth. The tools, for want of being sharpened, are generally thick at the point. This process is repeated to get the stone into its proper stage. When the stone is finished it is turned off the banker, and is ready to be taken and fixed in its place. It looks well, and does the mason credit for finishing it off soon, especially if properly worked to the mould. But what is the result? Those parts of the stone which have been treated by the mason are the parts that will be exposed to the weather; and the simple fact is, that those parts are a mass of bruises, having been stunned all over by the repeated heavy blows, till the face of the stone for some depth is pounded to a fine powder, which the atmosphere will readily act upon, and nothing put on that face will ever make it sound again, while the building in a few years becomes in a deplorable state. I could call your attention to a building erected very many years ago that is sound and good now; but then time and care were taken in preparing it.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

THE CHELSEA VESTRY AND UNSIGHTLY SPOTS.

THE *Chelsea Times* says:—"The *Builder* is not very complimentary to Chelsea Vestry. It winds up an article anent some of the unsightly spots left in Belgravia and Chelsea by the underground railway works in this wise:—'The parish of Chelsea received from the company 10,000*l.* for damage to the rates, and the Vestry appear to have allowed the railway company to act as they chose afterwards.' Our contemporary—a marvel of careful editing in the main—cannot be expected to know the details of the parish life of every district in the metropolis; and in this instance, although guardedly using the word 'appear,' it tends to create a wrong impression as to the Vestry upon the minds of its readers." "There are records of proceedings sufficient to show, first, that early in the matter the Vestry were not forgetful of their duty; and secondly, that they were really powerless as to direct and immediate control. The Vestry have since endeavoured to bring about an improvement, but the intervening dispute has, until very recently, been an obstacle; they were told they could file a bill in Chancery, but—wisely, we think—the Vestry fought shy of expensive and (in all probability) useless litigation. Vestries, we know, are hard to move in matters of real improvement, but we always bear in mind the inefficiency of their legal powers, and make due allowance for the manner in which their hands are tied. The *Builder* was right in drawing attention to a public eyesore; but the Vestry's records and our columns show that the Vestry was not the party who were in the wrong."

THE DERBY MEMORIAL.

THE bronze statue raised in Parliament-square to the memory of the late Earl of Derby was publicly unveiled on Saturday morning by the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli. Thither a large assembly had proceeded, as much to hear the expected speech of the Prime Minister as to see the memorial bronze. It was a notable group of statesmen and diplomatists which gathered in the square at noon, and the presence of many ladies added a charm to the scene.

The statue is of heroic size. Lord Derby is represented in the flowing robes of Chancellor of the Oxford University, and the likeness has been well caught by the sculptor, Mr. Noble. The full particulars of the casting of this statue, at the Eccleston Foundry of Messrs. Young & Co., at Pimlico, appears in vol. xxxi., p. 372, of the *Builder*.

On the pedestal supporting the statue four highly elaborated bas-reliefs are introduced to represent four of the most distinguished and memorable public events in Lord Derby's life, namely, his advocacy of the abolition of slavery in the old House of Commons, in 1833; his installation as Chancellor of Oxford, in 1853; his attendance as chairman of the Manchester Relief Committee, in 1865; and his presence as Premier at a Cabinet Council, in 1867.

These four bas-reliefs were cast at the foundry department of Messrs. Cox & Sons, of Southampton-street, Strand, by Mr. Moore, the experienced manager of that department, whose name deserves special mention. Oak leaves and acorns are wreathed round the pedestal, which, like the statue, is 10 ft. high. The pedestal is of Peterhead granite, highly polished; the mouldings and ornamentation are Gothic in style.

DAMAGE BY LIGHTNING AND HAIL.

THIS seems to be one of those years in which the destructive power of lightning shows itself in a degree beyond the average. Chesterfield Church was recently struck, the old crooked spire, a little above the clock, on the side where the new face has been lately put in, having had a large piece of stone carried away, and a part of the stonework surrounding the clock has also been damaged.

At Sheffield a lightning flash struck the offices of the Waterworks Company. A chimney-stack of the building was completely demolished. The same flash hurled down part of a lofty chimney at Tyzack's Works, Hereford-street, through the workshop roofs.

The spire of Christ Church, Salford, has been struck by lightning, and several large stones were displaced, as well as injury done to other portions of the building. The chimney-stalk at Messrs. E. Leigh & Co.'s machine works, Miles Platting, was also struck. Half of the terra-cotta parapet was thrown down, and a large portion of the stalk lower down was forced out. Some of the detached stones fell through the roofs of the smithy and grinding-rooms, slightly injuring five of the workmen. The injury done to the chimney-stalk and building was such that the 400 men employed in the works had to be dismissed for the day until the necessary repairs could be made.

In a more recent storm, which has occurred in the north-east of London, various persons have been killed, and others more or less seriously injured. Trees were struck and splintered in Chathan-square, Homerton, in the churchyards of St. John, Hackney, and St. John, Bethnal-green, and also in Pond-lane, Clapton. The church of St. Luke, Homerton, was struck, and between 40 ft. and 50 ft. of the roof torn up and the rafters set on fire. The current then struck the west window, and shattered the stonework, some portions of which were carried by the force of the shock nearly 80 ft. up the aisle. The engines of the Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived shortly after, and under their exertions the fire was stopped. The General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, was struck, and a portion of the balustrade carried away.

During a heavy thunderstorm which burst over Woolwich, the lightning struck the military prison at the Royal Artillery Barracks. The scattering of the brickwork from the summit of a square ventilating tower about 50 ft. from the ground showed where it had taken effect. Numbers of persons were in and about the building at the time, and their escape appears miraculous.

A severe storm has occurred in Perthshire. The Free Church of Braco or Ardoch was struck by lightning, and rendered a mass of ruins, the greater part of the steeple rolling through the roof. An hour later the congregation would have been present.

Bullocks, sheep, horses, and human beings, have been struck and killed in various places by the lightning.

The Italian journals state that a hailstorm with which the city of Milan has been visited was of fearful violence, the streets were deserted in a moment, and the Victor Emmanuel Gallery was one of the places most thronged by persons seeking for shelter. They, however, found themselves there in greater danger than outside, from the fragments of glass battered down, and they had to crowd into the shops, expecting every moment to see the roof fall in. The damage done to that building is estimated at 90,000f. The Duomo, the palace of the museum, had also a large number of windows broken, while the streets were strewn with glass from the shattered lamps. The plants and flowers in the gardens around the city present an aspect of desolation, as all vegetation is quite cut to pieces. Pigeons and other birds were found lying dead on the ground, killed by the hailstones, some of which weighed three ounces!

There has been an earthquake at Constantinople.

SANITARY LAWS AMENDMENT BILL.

ON the order for going into Committee on this Bill in the House of Commons, Mr. Sclater Booth gave an explanation of its object. He hoped, he said, that before long it would be possible to undertake a complete consolidation of the sanitary laws; meanwhile it was only proposed to amend in some particulars the Act of 1872. The first part of the Bill consisted chiefly of amendments of a technical character, and sought to remove certain ambiguities. By Clauses 19 and 20 the Local Government Board took fresh powers to put into force orders which they were authorised to make upon sluggish or reluctant local authorities. It was proposed, among other things, that the Board should have power to obtain a writ of *mandamus*, with the view of compelling a local authority to execute works which might be considered necessary. There were clauses designed to introduce improvements in the election and arrangements of the sanitary bodies, and to put a stop to the present system by which applications for provisional orders as to borrowing powers were crowded together at the end of the Session, it being intended, in order to effect the latter object, that parties should be at liberty to give notice at any time during the year of their intention to apply for such orders. There was a very important clause giving power to local authorities to obtain from the magistrates an order to prevent the use of wells, pumps, or cisterns which were considered unhealthy. The question of the water supply was becoming an urgent one for the whole country, and perhaps before long Government would be able to propose some general provisions on the subject, of a kind which would be greatly to the advantage of the community. It was true that the Bill might well do more than it did, but he believed it was complete as far as it went, and that by passing it they would be taking a considerable step in the path of sanitary improvement. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving that the Speaker should leave the chair.

Subsequently this Bill, as amended, was considered, and some additional amendments having been introduced, the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Thursday.

UNSANITARY BATHING IN VICTORIA PARK.

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GOVERNMENT AND THE COLLIERY OWNERS.

THE colliery-owners who have hitherto so shamefully disregarded common decency in their workmen's dwellings "have been playing with the bear till it has bitten them," and last week, at the instance of the Government, the two owners of the large Burnhope Colliery, viz., Mr. J. Sourby and Mr. R. Fletcher, were in the humiliating position of having to appear on summons at the Lancaster Police-court charged with not providing "accommodation" and ashpits to 120 houses connected with their colliery.

The sanitary inspector stated that only seven conveniences were attached to the whole of these houses, and they were in a most filthy and dilapidated condition. The ashpits were in a disgraceful state, and there was not *one drain* in the whole place.

Squire Fletcher said he was not aware his houses were in the state described, and Dr. Hall would tell the Court the place was free from disease.

Mr. Henry Smith, chairman of the magistrates, in great surprise, said he could not conceive how colliery-owners could visit their property without noticing the abominable condition their workmen's houses were in. With regard to their sanitary state, it was impossible the village could be in a wholesome condition, seeing that there was no drainage; and if any doctor said the village was free from disease, he should doubt his testimony. The magistrates at once ordered a convenience to be made to every two houses, proper drainage and ashpits to be made, with costs against the two defendants.

NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.

SIR,—London is too ill-supplied with objects of architectural interest for the demolition of so characteristic a specimen as Northumberland House is, to be permitted to pass unchallenged and without notice. Every individual in the community possessed of either good sense or taste is intimately concerned in the right settlement of this matter.

I spent half an hour the other evening in melancholy musing upon this noble pile, so soon to be lost to us if nobody will take action; and I directed my special attention to the block of masonry which forms the central portion and gateway of the Strand front. I always thought well of it, but was surprised to find how much better it is even than I had supposed it. With the exception of the projecting bay (or oriel, as it might, though somewhat improperly, be called), which is, perhaps, too narrow to be quite symmetrical, it is a perfect study. The whole elevation is a model of appropriateness in the use and application of flatted ornament; there is no superfluity, no flourish, no waste. The forms employed are all kindred, though infinitely varied, so that an eye the most cultivated and severely critical runs freely over its intricacies, recognising finally with delight the presence of a symphony in form. It is, in fact, the work of one of those architects, few in number, who reach what may be called the Orphic treatment of a theme when the stones seem to swing into position, and there range themselves into symmetrical doublings of part against part as in a mystical dance.

Let us take a survey of the square, and we shall soon gather reasons more than enough why the Board of Works should hesitate to remove Northumberland House. We may admit that it does not harmonise with the square, but that would be a reason for pulling the square down and not for depriving us of the only piece of good work in it. To begin with, there are the two stucco-faced eyesores, the ugly club and the hotel opposite still more ugly. Gibbs's Church, St. Martin's, calls for no particular comment as it is put in a corner out of the way, and half cut of sight. It is ponderous, but it is well proportioned, and those who know what Englishmen are capable of will bless it with at least a negative benediction, as poor Peter Cunningham did, because it is far better than much subsequent work which has cost double the money.

Next we come to the National Gallery. The pitiful device of the still more to be pitied Wilkins. He finished the building and afterwards put an end to himself. Of this one can only say, as the Irishman did, "Shure 'tis a pity the jintleman couldn't take a frind's advice, to revarse the order of the actions." This same gentleman, commenting on the present situation, might be expected to descant thus: "Shure it's an act of national suicide the revarse of right for the Board of Works to destroy, and put an end to an immortal thing, and lave the National Gallery all the while standing a building that would tumble down of itself, if it was well built enough to have any architectural taste in it at all, at all, and so could feel that it hadn't got any."

On the south side of the square you have a bank and a fire-office, which are models of constructive dyspepsia, congested *ad nauseam* with debased ornament and pillars innumerable of Purbeck, porphyry, and pink Aberdeen, with gilt scroll-work and globes that look like gas-lamps. In fact, they exhibit the usual plethora of abomination that arises where money is too plentiful and taste scarce. Such buildings look as if some David had gathered the rich materials with no wisdom of Solomon succeeding to put them together. Mark these phenomena well, study them, and you may extract from them in essence the very spirit of modern street architecture, which always appears to my mind to be mathematically based on some abstract principles, or system, deduced from the five quarters of hideousness, whether you examine our highest examples, as in the new Foreign Offices, or the lowest, in perhaps some railway station or warehouse in Cannon-street.

What is that black thing which we see at the north-west corner? That place of gloomy aspect, melancholy and soot-begrimed, as if some surgeon rather than an architect had operated on its stones? An unpleasant design indeed, and yet it is appropriate, for the College looks, for all the world, as if Death had built it for the town residence of his best friend,—Physic.

The edifices are reviewed: the sister art of sculpture now invites us on. Byron had a reputation for skill in that line of criticism, but in the absence of that great master an inferior hand may approach the sacred theme and deal with it unblamed.

Behold, then, a pillar, foliate Corinthian, raised as an appropriate pedestal for Nelson, England's chief sea-captain,—mast-headed, as some say! In the Channel he was always sick, but his berth in Trafalgar-square must try him more. Trafalgar-square defeats Trafalgar,—France is avenged! A pillar is a symbol of support. It seems to support nothing when you set a man on the top of it;—

"For pygmies set on Alps are pygmies still."

This is admitted; but then in England they only place their very great men in such positions as these. The column is rendered consistent, and derives, it is supposed, an invisible appropriateness, from the great weight of their reputation. This occult principle in hideousness probably no Greek would have thought of. The column is provided with four feet, each of which is a quadruped. These feet, together with the central support, connect it again with the five quarters of hideousness, which constitute the great underlying motive of all true modern art.

Around the four beasts lies a revelation (such as no seer ever contemplated in ecstasy, unless it were a Landseer) of what may be described as a route of modern generals,—men who were never vanquished, but who if now alive would be overcome at seeing with what honour their recognisant country can load those in whom she delights. They would be, like Niobe, all tears, lest a grateful country should, after their decease, insist on turning them, like Niobe, to stone. The country votes him honours, and instantly a sculptor rises with Medusa head, and petrifies the hero, adding a fresh stone to the heap which is already congregated on the finest site in Europe,—and which is truly a sight to be seen.

Long as this letter is, I trust it is not too long. I have it much at heart that this scandal be not perpetrated, for a scandal it will be if this noble screen of Jacobean work is allowed to perish from our streets. As an object of art it is fine; as an object of history it has interest: General Monk concerted here about the Restoration. If the Percys are in want of the 500,000*l.*, let the country buy it of them. We shall soon require a special building for the National Portrait Gallery; and we might easily rearrange the interior of the house to suit this object. We want no more openings to the Embankment; but if the traffic requires it, the public have been informed by the best experts that it is perfectly easy to make suitable openings without touching a stone of the house.

We are pulling down churches by the dozen and building up Vandalic frontages by the score, public and private. It is very unwise in our Board of Works, to take the initiative in such an act. They ought rather to protect the spot, and to seek to preserve for all lovers of beauty the house that Canaletto thought worth painting. Northumberland House is one of the few things in London that a cultivated eye can rest upon without offence. We cannot afford to lose it.

C. A. WARD.

THE DECAY OF STONE IN BUILDINGS.

SIR,—Much has been said and written on the subject of the preservation of building-stone from decay, and various attempts have been made to prepare a chemical solution to meet that want; but it is certainly very much like working in the dark. The true cause of our buildings so soon crumbling to dust lies in the very first operation of the building, viz., in the preparing of the stones by the masons; and if ever we are to have a building that will stand the atmosphere in a satisfactory manner, a radical change must be made in the masons' shop.

Competition has for some time been at such a pitch that builders are compelled to cut their estimates down to the lowest item possible, and, as a natural result, the mechanic is drawn into the vortex of competition with his fellow-workmen, as the contractor is on the look-out to keep the men that can turn out the greatest amount of work. Now this is is all fair and reasonable, but then that brings us face to face with the evil; and, by way of illustration, let us step into the masons' shop (some of us have been there before) and watch the working of one single stone. The mason is given a piece of stone for a certain purpose, and it is very likely there may be several others just starting on a similar piece for the same purpose; and now comes the tug of war, each one being anxious to have his job off the banker first. The mason will start by making either a bed or face to it, as he may consider best; and to do this he will have to reduce it to a fair surface by using a hammer something like six pounds in weight, and a heavy punch to match; and if he is a good mason he will punch it down quite close to the intended surface; then with a heavy mallet and a wide chisel, he will go over it to make it level and smooth. The tools, for want of being sharpened, are generally thick at the point. This process is repeated to get the stone into its proper stage. When the stone is finished it is turned off the banker, and is ready to be taken and fixed in its place. It looks well, and does the mason credit for finishing it off soon, especially if properly worked to the mould. But what is the result? Those parts of the stone which have been treated by the mason are the parts that will be exposed to the weather; and the simple fact is, that those parts are a mass of bruises, having been stunned all over by the repeated heavy blows, till the face of the stone for some depth is pounded to a fine powder, which the atmosphere will readily act upon, and nothing put on that face will ever make it sound again, while the building in a few years becomes in a deplorable state. I could call your attention to a building erected very many years ago that is sound and good now; but then time and care were taken in preparing it.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

THE CHELSEA VESTRY AND UNSIGHTLY SPOTS.

THE *Chelsea Times* says:—"The *Builder* is not very complimentary to Chelsea Vestry. It winds up an article anent some of the unsightly spots left in Belgravia and Chelsea by the underground railway works in this wise:—'The parish of Chelsea received from the company 10,000*l.* for damage to the rates, and the Vestry appear to have allowed the railway company to act as they chose afterwards.' Our contemporary—a marvel of careful editing in the main—cannot be expected to know the details of the parish life of every district in the metropolis; and in this instance, although guardedly using the word 'appear,' it tends to create a wrong impression as to the Vestry upon the minds of its readers." "There are records of proceedings sufficient to show, first, that early in the matter the Vestry were not forgetful of their duty; and secondly, that they were really powerless as to direct and immediate control. The Vestry have since endeavoured to bring about an improvement, but the intervening dispute has, until very recently, been an obstacle; they were told they could file a bill in Chancery, but—wisely, we think—the Vestry fought shy of expensive and (in all probability) useless litigation. Vestries, we know, are hard to move in matters of real improvement, but we always bear in mind the inefficiency of their legal powers, and make due allowance for the manner in which their hands are tied. The *Builder* was right in drawing attention to a public eyesore; but the Vestry's records and our columns show that the Vestry was not the party who were in the wrong."

THE DERBY MEMORIAL.

THE bronze statue raised in Parliament-square to the memory of the late Earl of Derby was publicly unveiled on Saturday morning by the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli. Thither a large assembly had proceeded, as much to hear the expected speech of the Prime Minister as to see the memorial bronze. It was a notable group of statesmen and diplomatists which gathered in the square at noon, and the presence of many ladies added a charm to the scene.

The statue is of heroic size. Lord Derby is represented in the flowing robes of Chancellor of the Oxford University, and the likeness has been well caught by the sculptor, Mr. Noble. The full particulars of the casting of this statue, at the Eccleston Foundry of Messrs. Young & Co., at Pimlico, appears in vol. xxxi., p. 372, of the *Builder*.

On the pedestal supporting the statue four highly elaborated bas-reliefs are introduced to represent four of the most distinguished and memorable public events in Lord Derby's life, namely, his advocacy of the abolition of slavery in the old House of Commons, in 1833; his installation as Chancellor of Oxford, in 1853; his attendance as chairman of the Manchester Relief Committee, in 1865; and his presence as Premier at a Cabinet Council, in 1867.

These four bas-reliefs were cast at the foundry department of Messrs. Cox & Sons, of Southampton-street, Strand, by Mr. Moore, the experienced manager of that department, whose name deserves special mention. Oak leaves and acorns are wreathed round the pedestal, which, like the statue, is 10 ft. high. The pedestal is of Peterhead granite, highly polished; the mouldings and ornamentation are Gothic in style.

DAMAGE BY LIGHTNING AND HAIL.

THIS seems to be one of those years in which the destructive power of lightning shows itself in a degree beyond the average. Chesterfield Church was recently struck, the old crooked spire, a little above the clock, on the side where the new face has been lately put in, having had a large piece of stone carried away, and a part of the stonework surrounding the clock has also been damaged.

At Sheffield a lightning flash struck the offices of the Waterworks Company. A chimney-stack of the building was completely demolished. The same flash hurled down part of a lofty chimney at Tyzack's Works, Hereford-street, through the workshop roofs.

The spire of Christ Church, Salford, has been struck by lightning, and several large stones were displaced, as well as injury done to other portions of the building. The chimney-stalk at Messrs. E. Leigh & Co.'s machine works, Miles Platting, was also struck. Half of the terra-cotta parapet was thrown down, and a large portion of the stalk lower down was forced out. Some of the detached stones fell through the roofs of the smithy and grinding-rooms, slightly injuring five of the workmen. The injury done to the chimney-stalk and building was such that the 400 men employed in the works had to be dismissed for the day until the necessary repairs could be made.

In a more recent storm, which has occurred in the north-east of London, various persons have been killed, and others more or less seriously injured. Trees were struck and splintered in Chathan-square, Homerton, in the churchyards of St. John, Hackney, and St. John, Bethnal-green, and also in Pond-lane, Clapton. The church of St. Luke, Homerton, was struck, and between 40 ft. and 50 ft. of the roof torn up and the rafters set on fire. The current then struck the west window, and shattered the stonework, some portions of which were carried by the force of the shock nearly 80 ft. up the aisle. The engines of the Metropolitan Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived shortly after, and under their exertions the fire was stopped. The General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, was struck, and a portion of the balustrade carried away.

During a heavy thunderstorm which burst over Woolwich, the lightning struck the military prison at the Royal Artillery Barracks. The scattering of the brickwork from the summit of a square ventilating tower about 50 ft. from the ground showed where it had taken effect. Numbers of persons were in and about the building at the time, and their escape appears miraculous.

A severe storm has occurred in Perthshire. The Free Church of Braco or Ardoch was struck by lightning, and rendered a mass of ruins, the greater part of the steeple rolling through the roof. An hour later the congregation would have been present.

Bullocks, sheep, horses, and human beings, have been struck and killed in various places by the lightning.

The Italian journals state that a hailstorm with which the city of Milan has been visited was of fearful violence, the streets were deserted in a moment, and the Victor Emmanuel Gallery was one of the places most thronged by persons seeking for shelter. They, however, found themselves there in greater danger than outside, from the fragments of glass battered down, and they had to crowd into the shops, expecting every moment to see the roof fall in. The damage done to that building is estimated at 90,000f. The Duomo, the palace of the museum, had also a large number of windows broken, while the streets were strewn with glass from the shattered lamps. The plants and flowers in the gardens around the city present an aspect of desolation, as all vegetation is quite cut to pieces. Pigeons and other birds were found lying dead on the ground, killed by the hailstones, some of which weighed three ounces!

There has been an earthquake at Constantinople.

SANITARY LAWS AMENDMENT BILL.

ON the order for going into Committee on this Bill in the House of Commons, Mr. Sclater Booth gave an explanation of its object. He hoped, he said, that before long it would be possible to undertake a complete consolidation of the sanitary laws; meanwhile it was only proposed to amend in some particulars the Act of 1872. The first part of the Bill consisted chiefly of amendments of a technical character, and sought to remove certain ambiguities. By Clauses 19 and 20 the Local Government Board took fresh powers to put into force orders which they were authorised to make upon sluggish or reluctant local authorities. It was proposed, among other things, that the Board should have power to obtain a writ of *mandamus*, with the view of compelling a local authority to execute works which might be considered necessary. There were clauses designed to introduce improvements in the election and arrangements of the sanitary bodies, and to put a stop to the present system by which applications for provisional orders as to borrowing powers were crowded together at the end of the Session, it being intended, in order to effect the latter object, that parties should be at liberty to give notice at any time during the year of their intention to apply for such orders. There was a very important clause giving power to local authorities to obtain from the magistrates an order to prevent the use of wells, pumps, or cisterns which were considered unhealthy. The question of the water supply was becoming an urgent one for the whole country, and perhaps before long Government would be able to propose some general provisions on the subject, of a kind which would be greatly to the advantage of the community. It was true that the Bill might well do more than it did, but he believed it was complete as far as it went, and that by passing it they would be taking a considerable step in the path of sanitary improvement. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving that the Speaker should leave the chair.

Subsequently this Bill, as amended, was considered, and some additional amendments having been introduced, the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Thursday.

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ployed on the exterior being red brick, with Ancaster and Hollington stone. Staffordshire blue bricks are sparingly used in some of the dressings to the doors and windows. Moulded bricks are also introduced into the cornices. The principal external feature, however, is the bell tower 80 ft. high, which forms a prominent object from whatever point the building may be approached. The cost of the whole erection, including fence walls, palisades and gates, with gas fittings and furniture, is 2,426*l*. Mr. Jas. Cooper, of Nottingham, was the general contractor, and Messrs. W. F. & R. Brooker, of Nottingham, the architects.

THE IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS COMPANY.

SIR,—In the *Builder* of the 4th inst., you publish a report of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Association for improving the Homes of the Poor, in which Mr. Russell Scott is represented to have made a statement respecting "a like association under Sir Sydney Waterlow," which statement, if correct, would be, and deservedly so, most damaging to the interests of the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company, Limited, the Association referred to.

Will you permit me, however, to state that this company has always paid a dividend of 5 (not 6) per cent., and has accumulated a reserve fund of upwards of 12,000*l*. out of its net profits; that it keeps proper debtor and creditor accounts of its revenues, which are audited and certified half-yearly by Mr. W. Turquand, of Tokenhouse-yard; and that so far from proceeding on the "principle of valuation," the assets in the balance-sheets show the actual cost of the buildings erected.

In proof of this I enclose a copy of our half-yearly report, and balance-sheet, to the 31st of December last, and shall be most happy to forward copies to any persons desiring the same.

JAMES MOORE, Secretary.

*** We have also received a note from Mr. Russell Scott requesting us to state "that in what he said at the meeting he made no reference whatever to the Industrial Dwellings Company of which Sir S. Waterlow is chairman." Looking to the journals, it seems that other reporters besides our own misunderstood the speaker.

A STRIKE FOR CLEANLINESS.

AT a public meeting last week touching the sanitary state of Coxhoe, the Rector (the Rev. W. H. W. Casely) of that sweet spot thus delivered his mind:—

"I say that death is stalking through Coxhoe, Cornforth, Cassop, and Quarrington. The other day, in passing a house in Cornforth, I saw a heap of night-soil standing higher than I can reach. There were eight families connected with the dwelling, and the stench arising from the abominable accumulation of filth was something frightful. I have seen people throw out their night-soil, and they assured me they would like to have water-closets and water. The Rosedale Company had no right to be allowed to bring a large population together, and compel their workmen and families to live amongst large accumulations of filth and dirt, and without a supply of pure water.

Workmen strike for many things nowadays, and certainly it is a marvel to me that they have not struck before now against the continuation of the present lamentable state of affairs. I should be very glad to see them strike in a body, and tell their employers that they will not live in these dirty and filthy pigstyes. It is a lasting disgrace to Messrs. Morrison & Co. that such a state of things should exist. Delay begins with a D, and so does death."

CASES UNDER METROPOLITAN BUILDING ACT.

Wooden Buildings.—At Wandsworth, Henry Perkes was summoned by Mr. I'Anson, district surveyor, under the Building Act, with reference to a wooden structure which had been erected on the Shaftesbury Working Men's Estate, Battersea.

Mr. Corsellis, in support of the summons, said that, on the complainant objecting to the building, four wheels were placed under it; but he submitted that it was still a building within the meaning of the Act. In support of his argument he cited decisions by Mr. Ingham and Mr. Dayman. The latter remarked that in these practical times even St. Paul's might be removed on wheels, and Mr. Ingham had recently decided that a wooden fowl-house was a building. Mr. J. Hebb, assistant to Mr. I'Anson, said the building was in the back garden of an inhabited house on the Shaftesbury Park estate. It was first built on a brick foundation. Mr. Jeune, who defended, submitted that from the character and size of the building, the case did not come within the meaning of the Act. There was no precise definition of what a building was in the section, but it implied that it must be one which had footings. Being on wheels, it was not a building. The character of it was similar to a bathing-machine or dog-kennel, which could be removed. In the first instance, it was intended to place a mangle in the building. He was instructed to deny that it was originally placed on a brick foundation. Mr. Hebb said the garden was surrounded by a fence, so that the building could not be removed from it. Mr. Jeune said it was intended to remove it. Mr. Bridge said, intending to put a mangle in the building clearly showed it was to be used for habitation. If it was intended to remove it there would be no harm in making an order. He then ordered the building to be removed in fourteen days, and the defendant to pay 1*l*. 1*s*. costs in addition to 2*l*. 2*s*. allowed for an adjournment.

"LOYALTY TO EMPLOYERS."

SIR,—In reference to my letter in the last number of the *Builder* relating to my connexion with Sir M. Digby Wyatt in writing the Guides to his Courts at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, I beg to state that after due consideration I feel and admit that I have been entirely in the wrong in the matter from the very beginning, owing to the exaggerated idea entertained by me as to the value of my assistance; and that my claims, exacting and embarrassing to Sir Digby Wyatt as they must have been, were met by him in a very generous spirit, to which I have long failed to do justice. To him is due the scheme of the guide-books, their arrangement, revision, and some of the most valuable and original portions of each. If I brought the matter, it was he who infused into it life, and gave it form and shape; and without the valuable information he gave me as to works for consultation, I never could have done even what I did. I regret exceedingly that I should ever have taken a different view of the subject, which has made me appear unjust and ungrateful. In making this apology public you will greatly oblige,

J. B. WARING.

SURVEYORS OF TURNPIKE ROADS AND MATERIALS FROM COMMON RIVER OR BROOK.

SIR,—In the 97th section of 3 Geo. IV., cap. 126, power is given to the surveyor of every turnpike-road to get materials for the repairs of the roads out of any common river or brook (subject to certain conditions) without being chargeable for trespass. As disputes arise sometimes in this country as to the meaning of the words "common river or brook," perhaps some of the readers of the *Builder* will kindly enlighten me, through its columns, as to the interpretation of the words in other parts, as to whether the term "common river or brook" is applicable to natural rivers or brooks generally, or is it confined to some special ones. Any information that would throw some light upon the subject will oblige a

ROAD SURVEYOR.

"BOOK-COVERS."

SIR,—If we do not quite agree that "*omne ignotum pro magnifico est*," we listen with deference to the unknown censor when a criticism shows such sound taste as that published in your issue of the 11th inst; but we feel called upon to protest against a wholesale condemnation of illustrative art as applied to the outsides of books, and we fail to see that, in the instance cited by your critic, the use of hands and tuning-forks on the cover of a work on "Sound and Music" can be either "vulgar or inappropriate."

The difficulty of adopting mere ornament to give character to some books would be almost insurmountable; and, in justification of our so-called over-decoration of drawing-room-table books, it should be remembered that these are essentially gift-books bought by the donor, as any other ornament might be bought, for the attractiveness of their outward appearance.

The retail bookseller must have such books wherewith to decorate his counter and window; and it will be admitted that in the bygone style of cloth-binding there was little to make a show, and scarcely any attempt to individualise volumes. So many books are published now-a-days that we venture to think that an effort to give to each, when possible, a special character, is an effort in the right direction, and a convenience to both seller and buyer. If, in our endeavour after this end, we are at times too realistic in treatment, we think the critics should be lenient. For an unknown writer to issue a work in too plain a style is commercially a suicidal act; the public will hardly take the trouble to examine the bushel to discover if there be a light under it or no.

We thank you for your notice of our rarely-noticed art.

JAMES BURN & Co.

INFRINGEMENT OF A TRADE MARK.

AT the County Police-court, Strangeways, A. Van Stan, cement manufacturer, Bridport-street, Dorset-square, London, was summoned for infringing the trade-mark of Messrs. Kay, Brothers, wholesale chemists, Stockport. It appeared that in October, 1863, Mr. S. Kay invented a new kind of cement, and adopted for it the distinctive name, "Cosguline," and registered a label under the Copyright Act, with the word "Cosguline" (a distinctive title never before used). From that time Mr. Kay had continued to sell the cement under the name of "Cosguline," and had from time to time enforced his sole right to the patent. On the 25th of May last Mr. Thomas Kay, one of the complainants, went to the Botanical Gardens, Old Trafford, where he saw the defendant selling cement in a tent, and in the tent, fixed in a conspicuous position, was a placard, on which were the words, "Cosguline, patent, for fixing flowers, mending relics, valuable china. Warranted to stand boiling water." Mr. Kay purchased from the defendant a bottle of the cement, and then told him he had better remove the placard, and he had no right to use the word "Cosguline." The defendant replied that he knew the law, and refused to remove the placard. Mr. Kay visited the gardens again on the 26th of May, and saw the defendant still selling the cement. Mr. Atkinson contended that the mere display of a placard did not come within the meaning of the Act. The real name of the defendant's cement was "Diamond Cement," and he used the name "Cosguline," because he thought it was a high-sounding name. The defendant was fined in the full penalty of 10*l*., being 5*l*. for each day, and costs.

PLUMBERS AGAIN.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire is reported from Edinburgh, by which a fine tenement has been almost ruined; and the disaster is again ascribed to the plumbers on the roof! The block in question extends from the office of the Royal Bank in South Clerk-street to the corner of Preston-terrace, and is almost a new property. It appears that during the forenoon a plumber had been on the leads making repairs; and at one o'clock he left for dinner, leaving behind him, however, his "choffer" brightly burning, and, it is said, with a bolt in it. It is conjectured that the strong wind had blown over the choffer, when the hot bolt or the burning coals melting the lead had ignited the woodwork underneath. Be this as it may, it seems clear that it was near the spot where the plumber had been working that the fire commenced. The choffer, it may be mentioned, was afterwards found among the rubbish, and carried off by the police.

CHURCH-BUILDING NEWS.

Plymouth.—The fabric of St. Andrew's Church since the alterations is once more, after the lapse of three centuries at the least, assuming its first aspect of an old typical Devonshire church. The western and transept galleries have been cleared away and the tower-arch opened. The removal of the transept galleries is, in its way, effective; and the apparent addition to the width of the structure is even greater than could have been anticipated. The north transept, or chapel, is now having a new oak roof put up, gabled. The other transept-roof will follow by-and-by. It has at length been decided that the organ shall be placed in the north transept—at the western end; where there is a dead wall. Thus only one window will be blocked. In the south transept the opening to the rood-loft staircase is apparent; and a squint has been uncovered, the angle of which indicates that the altar must have been placed further forward than the present communion-table. The east window of the transept, which was partially blocked to admit of the erection of the present diminutive vestry, will be lengthened, like the west windows of the aisles. The new vestry will be built between the south transept and south porch, where the staircase to the transept gallery is now; and it will be approached from the transept by an ancient doorway, long blocked. The soil within the church appears to have been absolutely crammed with dead bodies. It is full of bones, and several lead coffins have been discovered. There has not been much found that is of interest, in an antiquarian point of view, with the exception of a full-length effigy of a female, which once evidently rested on an altar-tomb. It is apparently of twelfth or thirteenth century date. The face is much worn. Several of the monuments will have to be removed and re-erected. The east window is to be removed. Mr. Roach has offered to give the stonework for a new window, and Sir Gilbert Scott is now preparing the designs. The reredos will also be designed by Sir Gilbert, and wrought either in Caen stone or alabaster. It is to be Decorated Gothic in style, with an abundance of floriated ornament. This work is not yet in hand; but the wood carving is progressing rapidly in the hands of Mr. Harry Hems. The Rev. C. T. Wilkinson has taken in hand the tower-window, and this is to be filled with stained glass, at a cost of some 235*l*., the artists being Messrs. Burlison & Grylls, of London.

Dawlish (*Devon*).—The memorial stone has been laid of a new chancel to the parish church, which is undergoing restoration at the cost of between 5,000*l*. and 6,000*l*. The church has been badly in need of restoration for a considerable time. It has always been without a chancel, and the old seating was very high, narrow, and inconvenient. Besides this, several parts of the building were in a somewhat dilapidated condition. The flooring was bad, the ventilation defective, and, in short, a thorough restoration had become almost a matter of necessity. The contemplated cost of the work that has been undertaken is about 5,600*l*. The old and unsightly pews will be replaced by low and more agreeable seats; the flooring will be new; arrangements will be made for warming and lighting the church, and besides this there is a new chancel, organ chamber, vestry and chancel aisle, which will not only be the means of increasing the accommodation but will improve the appearance of the building. The western

gallery has been removed. The chancel is 47 ft. deep, and is being built of Chudleigh stone, with Doulting stone dressings. There will be a stained glass window in the east and west ends of the church. The work is in the hands of Mr. St. Aubyn, of London, architect. The builder is Mr. Diment, of Bristol, who built the Victoria Hall at Exeter. The amount already collected towards the cost of the restoration is about 3,750*l.*, this sum including a donation of 1,600*l.* from Mr. P. R. Hoare, by whom the memorial-stone was laid. About 2,000*l.* more, therefore, remain to be raised.

Hull.—St. Jude's Church has been consecrated. The building is in the Early English style of plain type, and consists of a nave, north and south aisles, with north and west porches, and a chancel, with vestry on the west side. Externally the whole is of red stock brick, with moulded brick arches, and jambs to the windows. The chancel has in the east gable a triplet, with cusped centre light, and narrow coupled lancets on the north and east walls. Internally the nave, of six bays, is divided from the aisles by circular stone piers, with moulded caps and bases, and moulded red brick arches, and from the chancel by a moulded chancel arch. An open roof, on arched principals, covers the nave—all the timber showing, with the bright boarding in the top of the rafters. The roof is of similar description to the aisles, and a close-boarded arched ceiling to the chancel. The seats are of deal, with ornamental ends, stained and varnished. The total length outside is 134 ft.; and width, 64 ft.; the height to the apex of the west gable, 56 ft. The lighting of the church is effected by an arrangement of gas burners round the caps of nave columns, and in the chancel by two ornamental brass standards. The works have been executed by Messrs. Hockney & Liggins, and their sub-contractors. The architect is Mr. Edw. Simpson, of Bradford. The total cost of the building and site is 4,500*l.*

Pendlebury.—St. Augustine's Church, Pendlebury, has been consecrated. The church and schools adjoining have been built at the entire expense of Mr. E. S. Heywood, of the firm of Heywood Brothers, bankers, Manchester; and although the actual cost is not known to the public, it is estimated that to complete the whole buildings, which have been in the course of erection for about 3½ years, will have cost at least 14,000*l.* The style is that of the middle of the fourteenth century, and is English in its details and general character. The windows have flowing traceries of various patterns. The windows are placed at a considerable height from the floor, and are in themselves of tall proportion. The building has thus a considerable elevation. Externally it is somewhat severe in character. The roof is one continuous arch, enriched by carved trusses and richer cornices in the choir. The east window, a large one of seven lights, is of stained glass. It has the subject of the Crucifixion in the centre, with St. Mary and St. John, and is surrounded by other figures of saints. The tracery of all the windows has stained glass. The extreme length of the church from west to east is 159 ft.; and the width of the nave and chancel, without the aisle, is 30 ft. The height to the apex of the gable is 80 ft. 2 in. Mr. G. F. Bodley and Mr. J. Garner, of London, are the architects; and Mr. Fitzwilliam acted as clerk of the works; Mr. Franklin, of Deddington, has done the carving.

DISSENTING CHURCH-BUILDING NEWS.

Hartlepool.—The foundation-stone of a new chapel for the accommodation of the United Free Methodists of West Hartlepool has been laid by Mr. Thomas Richardson, M.P. for the borough. The site of the new edifice is in Burbank-street, immediately adjacent to the present school building, which, since its opening in 1868, the congregation have had to use as a temporary chapel. The style of the edifice will be Italian. The total cost will be about 5,500*l.*, and the material used will be red brick and stone facings. The architect is Mr. J. Garry, West Hartlepool.

Blyth.—The foundation-stone of a church for the English Presbyterians at Blyth was laid by Mrs. John Hedley on April 7th. The new building, which has been designed in the Gothic style of architecture of the Geometrical Period, will stand on a commanding site at the junction of the Waterloo-road and the new street. Externally the church will be constructed of pressed red bricks, from Choppington, with stone dressings and ashlar bands. The whole of the windows will have double splayed brick and stone jambs, with arched heads and moulded stone labels, those to the main front and side gable being two-light with traceried heads. The doorways will be all deeply recessed, with splayed jambs and heads in three orders. The chief feature in the exterior will be the tower and spire, which will stand at the junction of Waterloo-road and the new street; it will rise to the height of 130 ft., and be surmounted with an ornamental wrought-iron finial and gilded weather vane. The architect has taken as his model for this feature, the type of tower and spire prevailing during the thirteenth century in certain districts of Normandy, the main characteristics of which are the lofty, deeply recessed, and enriched belfry windows, with their piquant louvres covered with ornamental slating. The roofs of the church will be covered with grey Welsh slating, with ornamental red tile ridges and wrought-iron finials, and the principal gables will terminate with carved and moulded stone crockets and finials. Internally, the building will consist of nave and aisles, divided by means of cast-iron ornamental columns, with moulded caps and bases, which will also support the galleries, and be carried up to take the nave arcading and roof principal. The galleries run round three sides of the interior, and with the ground-floor will accommodate between 500 and 600 persons. There will be, in addition to the church, a large school at the rear, facing Grey-street, arranged to accommodate about 200 scholars. The principal entrance to the church will be from Waterloo-road. The entrance to the school will be from the New-road, and a separate staircase will be provided, to enable the children to reach their seats in the gallery of the church without leaving the building, and to give additional means of rapid egress in case of any emergency. To this end six distinct means of exit would be available to the congregation should occasion require their use. The platform will be placed in a chancel recess at the south end of the church, and be so arranged that any one may obtain a direct view of the minister. The minister's vestry will be on the west side of the chancel, with separate side entrance, and with means of communication to the church and school. The lighting will be by means of two lofty two-light windows in the north elevation, and by coupled lancets in the aisles and to the galleries. The whole of the windows will be filled in with lead lights. The ceiling of the church will be wagon-headed, with stained and varnished roof principals, and moulded ribs at the intersections. The walls internally will be tinted a pale grey colour. The heating is proposed to be effected by means of a hot-water apparatus in the basement, and the ventilation by Sheringham valves for fresh air supply, and ventilating roof chambers and opening for carrying off the vitiated air. The total cost of the whole structure will be about 4,500*l.*, or, exclusive of the schools, about 3,700*l.* Mr. Winship, of Blyth, will act as clerk of the works; and the contracts have been taken as follows:—Masons, bricklayers, slaters, and plasterers' work, by Messrs. White & Sproat, of Blyth; ironfounders and plumbers' work, and engineering by Messrs. Walker & Emley, of Newcastle; painters' and glaziers' work, by Mr. Thomas Walker, of Blyth. The architect is Mr. Thomas Oliver, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Chester.—The foundation-stones of a new Congregational chapel at Threapwood have been laid. The site of the old chapel has been enlarged, and the new one, though by no means imposing in appearance, or so capacious as that at Malpas, will be sufficient for the wants of the neighbourhood. For the erection of the chapel three tenders were sent in, and that of Mr. Thomas Huxley, of Malpas, was accepted. For a trifle less than 250*l.* he undertook to build a little Gothic chapel, to seat about 150 persons. The dimensions will be 30 ft. long, not inclusive of the apsidal termination, and 20 ft. wide, and at the north-east corner is a minister's vestry, 10 ft. by 7 ft. The gabled front, with an entrance-porch, and two lights, one on each side, will face the west. There will be three double-light windows on each side of the chapel, divided by buttresses, the building being of brick, with stone dressings. The internal fittings will be red deal, stained and varnished, the seats open, and the minister's desk on a dais within the apse.

Upper Norwood.—The memorial stones of a large Wesleyan chapel at Norwood have been laid by the following gentlemen, viz.,—Alderman Barlow, of Bolton; Mr. D. J. Jenkins, M.P.; Mr. W. T. Whelpton; and Mr. John Riley, of London. The new chapel will be in the Early Gothic style of architecture, and occupy a site on the summit of Gipsy-hill. There will be a tower and spire of stone, and accommodation will be furnished for 1,000 persons, spacious schools, &c., being provided also below the chapel. The total cost, including land, will be 8,300*l.* The architect is Mr. Charles Bell, and the builders are Messrs. Bowyer & Sons. This will make the sixteenth of the fifty proposed new chapels to be erected in London under the auspices of Sir Francis Lycett's fund.

Maidstone.—A meeting has been held in the West Borough Congregational Church for the purpose of considering the desirability of erecting a new church. The chair was taken by Mr. F. Pine. Plans of the proposed church were exhibited, and the meeting appeared to be generally in favour of them. According to these plans, the new church will be a semi-Gothic structure; it will cost about 3,500*l.*, and will seat about 500 persons. The building which is now used for public worship will, in the event of the new church being erected, be devoted to educational purposes. The subscriptions received and promised amount to about 350*l.*

Raunds, Northamptonshire.—A new Wesleyan chapel was opened here on the 8th inst. The building, which is in the Italian style, will seat 800 persons. In the basement a large hall for week-night services is provided. Ministers' vestry class-room and other conveniences are placed under the gallery at the back of the rostrum. The floor of the chapel is reached by bold flights of steps. The total cost, exclusive of the materials of the old chapel, will be 2,700*l.* Mr. W. Ranger, of Finsbury-pavement, is the architect, and Mr. Holdsworth, of Northampton, the builder. The building is warmed by Grundy's warm-air apparatus.

Cambridge. — The Congregational Church, which has during the past eighteen months been in course of erection in Trumpington-street, adjoining Little St. Mary's-lane, and opposite to Pembroke College, has been opened for divine service. The building differs from the general run of Dissenting conventicles, in that it boasts of a tower and spire, rising to an altitude of 130 ft., next the main street; and there are other features of interest which we have already noticed (see view and particulars in *Builder* of last year, pp. 264 and 267). The building is called "Emmanuel Congregational Church," and the entire cost of it with the site has been 12,500*l.* After the building was begun, a change was made in the design for lining the interior walling with fine ashlar stone instead of with brick. The church is, therefore, substantially of stonework throughout. The architects were Messrs. Fuller & Cubitt, of London; and the builder was Mr. Horsman, of Wolverhampton.

Macclesfield.—The opening services in connexion with the new chapel erected by the Baptist community in St. George's-street, have taken place. The chapel is Italian in style. It is approached by a double flight of steps. The schoolroom, which is in the basement of the building, is of native pitch-faced stone, and the rooms are lofty, well-lighted, and airy. The interior of the chapel is arranged into modern pews, all looking towards the minister, and of pitch pine. The gallery runs round the chapel over the vestries, behind the pulpit. The chapel will seat from 500 to 600 adults, and the schoolroom accommodates from 200 to 300 children. Five class-rooms and vestries are also provided. The chapel is lighted with star-light pendants and triple lights, ventilated by patent syphon ventilators fixed on the roof, and heated with steam pipes in the aisles. The entire cost, we believe, will be about 3,000*l.* The architects are Messrs. J. Horsfield & Son, of Manchester; and the contractors, Messrs. Burrows & Moseley, of Macclesfield.

Padgate.—The foundation-stone of a new Wesleyan chapel at Padgate has been laid by Mrs. Samuel Rigby, of Bruche Hall. The site, given by Mr. William Bennett, is near the Padgate railway station. The cost of the building, including the site, is 1,500*l.*, and 1,100*l.* have already been promised, Mr. and Mrs. Rigby and Messrs. Bennett having subscribed to that sum. The chapel will be of Gothic design. The end gable will be principally occupied with a three-

light window, with a traceried head, the side next the road having single pointed windows, and a rustic porch of pitch pine. The building will be faced with Yorkshire shoddies, with dressings and bands of red stone, the roof being covered with bands of blue and green slates, finished with an ornamental red cresting. The interior of the chapel will be laid out to seat about 200 people, and there is, in addition, a school-room about 30 ft. by 18 ft. The whole of the pews will be of pitch-pine. The architect is Mr. C. O. Ellison, of Liverpool, and the builders Messrs. Gibson, of Warrington.

Rugeley.—The memorial stones of a new Independent Chapel have been laid at Heroncourt. The new church will be in the Tudor-Elizabethan style of architecture, in keeping with the mansion, part of which will remain for school and residence. The chapel has an arcade entrance, consisting of three pointed Gothic arches, supported by stone shafts with moulded caps and bases. The building will be composed of red bricks, with stone dressings and buttresses, and have a tiled open roof, the principals of the roof being brought down the walls on stone corbels. The interior will be 60 ft. long, 37 ft. wide, and the height from the floor to the wall plate 21 ft., and from the floor to the ceiling, 32 ft. The church will be well lighted by four large windows on one side, and by a still larger one in the front over the entrance. The cost of the church is estimated at about 1,200*l.* exclusive of old materials reused, and it is to accommodate 350 persons. The entire cost of the building and ground will be about 3,000*l.* Mr. W. T. Foulkes, of Birmingham, is the architect; Messrs. T. & H. Brown, of Rugeley, are the builders; and Messrs. Tompson Brothers, Rugeley, have the execution of the gasfittings, &c., in hand.

Books Received.

Art Workmanship: a Monthly Magazine of Design to illustrate the Master-works of all Periods. London: Asher & Co.

THE first six parts of this work, including sixty-four plates, have been bound together, and form a volume of interest and value. Goldsmiths' work, furniture, decorative painting, and iron-work are amongst the subjects well illustrated.

The Year Book of Facts in Science and Art; exhibiting the Most Important Discoveries and Improvements of the past Year in Mechanics and the Useful Arts, General Science, Electricity, Chemistry, Zoology and Botany, Geology and Mineralogy, Meteorology, and Astronomy. By JOHN TIMBS, author of "Curiosities of Science," "Things Not Generally Known," &c. London: Lockwood & Co., 7, Stationers' Hall-court. 1874.

ONE of our pleasantest experiences among books is the perennial refreshment of the memory, and additional acquisition of knowledge, as to what the year has brought forth in the arts and sciences, which the never-failing issue of Mr. Timbs's "Year Book of Facts" enables us to enjoy. The present volume is quite as full of interest as heretofore, and Mr. Timbs's vigour of mind in collecting, selecting, condensing, and otherwise compiling the valuable records of men of science and art seems inexhaustible. There is one oversight, however, in the series of Year Books: there is no record of the growing years of this standard work. To the young, nothing on the face of it shows it to be anything more than a book of the past year, whereas it is a Year Book of many years' standing, and this could be easily shown by stating the number of the issue on the title-page.

The present volume has an interesting memoir of Professor Tyndall, with a life-like portrait of him.

VARIORUM.

"The Sewage Question. By Sidney W. Rich, Analytical and Consulting Chemist. London: printed and published for the author, 20, Exeter-street, Strand. 1874." Mr. Rich here shows how a disinfecting and precipitating material may be manufactured as a waste product in the soda process. This was done by a systematic course of laboratory experiments to demonstrate the possibility of getting a clear effluent water, free from odour, with the moderate use of the simple saline precipitating agent,—sulphate of alumina. These experiments were then tested by practical working on a large scale; a continuous trial of the process devised having been made in April, 1872, at the Tottenham Sewage Works. Some of the most hopeful experiments towards the solution of the sewage problem have involved the use of the earth-proper named alumina, or clay; its deodorising power in soils is well known. As regards earth-closets, the author agrees with us in believing it to be "abundantly clear that the majority of the towns that have once adopted the water-closet system can ever return to any earth-closet or midden system whatever." Nor, it is to be hoped, will it ultimately be necessary to do so. Meantime, it is just by such experiments as those with soluble salts of clay that the problem may probably be solved.——"The Twenty-third Annual Report of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists, Smiths, &c., for 1873." Mr. Allen, the General Secretary, reports this to be "the record of the operations of a prosperous year." Eight new branches of this powerful association have been opened within the last twelve months. The year started with a reserved balance of 158,313*l.* odd, and ended with one of 200,923*l.*, showing a net saving upon the year of 42,609*l.* During the year 15,562*l.* were expended on donation benefit, railway fares, &c., for unemployed members. An excellent understanding, Mr. Allen reports, exists between the employers generally and the members. In support of the sick, 18,022*l.* have been expended, and for funeral benefit, 6,567*l.*——The Twenty-second Annual Report of the Committee of Management of the Hospital for Sick Children, 48 and 49, Great Ormond-street, London, and Cromwell House, Highgate, has been issued in a printed form. It appears that the new buildings (erecting from the design of Mr. E. M. Barry) are already shown to be scarcely sufficient in extent. The money already expended on the building, including the foundation, is 13,164*l.* The completion of the out-patient portion of the new works is urgent before the opening of the in-patient wards in the new hospital.

Miscellanea.

Clearing Ground of Trees.—On the estate of Grangemuir, near Anstruther, a new system of clearing ground of trees has been recently introduced by Mr. A. Gilchrist, Carvennour. Mr. Gilchrist is local manager in Fifeshire for the Scottish Steam Cultivation Company. Some three or four years ago he rooted out an old hedge which encumbered his farm by attaching chains to the stumps and drawing them out by means of the steam drum commonly used for plough traction. Finding that a great deal of time and trouble was thus saved, he applied the same method to the removal of trees, and with results equally satisfactory. The system has since, we believe, been tried in various places—among others, on the property of Mr. Gordon, of Cluny, and on the northern estates of the Duke of Sutherland. As exhibited lately, it was applied to the removal of a strip of plantation, consisting of oak, beech, and plane trees, said to be about a hundred years old. The engine, a machine of 12-horse power, used for steam ploughing by the wire-rope system, was placed in an adjoining field, near the trees to be operated upon. A chain being hitched round a tree at such distance from the ground as might be deemed advisable, the wire rope of the engine was attached, when, with a turn or two of the drum, the roots were wrenched up bodily with a large ball of earth adhering. The work went on apace, about 300 trees, varying from 6 in. to 12 in. in diameter, being rooted up in a few hours. Considerably larger timber was next operated on. The experiments seemed to show that with a sufficient power, applied at the proper height, any tree of ordinary dimensions could be wrenched from its bed. It was equally evident, however, that for trees of large size, which required to be laid hold of at no great height, considerable engine-power and thoroughly reliable tackle would be necessary. In new Colonial settlements clearing the land might be greatly facilitated in this way.

Working Men's Clubs.—The Dean of Westminster will preside at the annual meeting of the members and friends of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, at three o'clock, on Tuesday, July 21st, at the Society of Arts, Adelphi.

A New Temperance Hall at Frome.—The new Temperance Hall at Frome, which has been built at a cost of about 1,450*l.*, including furniture, has been opened. The building stands on the site of the old mechanics' hall. The upper and principal hall is an irregular parallelogram, 54 ft. by 29 ft. In the wall facing the entrance are three semicircular arches, two of which are supported by twin iron columns, with ornamented capitals, opening to an extension of the platform, and the third is filled with ornamental panelling. There is a gallery at the south end of the room, capable of seating about seventy persons. The hall is lighted by means of four large windows on the east side, two smaller ones on the north end, and four at the south end, the glass used being partly ornamental. The whole of the panelling of the room is of pitch pine, the panels being of white Baltic deal. The ceiling is vaulted, and semi-elliptical in form, being divided into compartments by ribs of red deal. These compartments have been decorated by Mr. C. J. Grant, of Frome, from a design furnished by the architect. From the centre of the iron ventilators in the ceiling are four pendants, terminating in starlights of eight jets each. Beneath the principal hall is a lower one, 24 ft. by 29 ft., with rostrum, and in connexion with which are various offices.

Accident to the Egremont Pier, Liverpool.—The works at the new pier which is being erected at Egremont have been seriously retarded by an accident. The pier, when completed, will extend about 100 yards into the river, at a height which will accommodate steamers at any stage of tide. The pillars which form the supports of the pier had been put into position, and the lattice-work which will constitute the sides had been laid on, everything in connexion with the frame-work being ready to be screwed up and bolted tight. In this condition the work was left over night. About four o'clock in the morning a steam-flat was endeavouring to find its way on to the gridiron at Egremont, when the rope slipped, and the flat drifted broadside on to the pier. There was very little resistance, and the result of the collision was that, except the pillars at the extreme points of the pier, they were all overturned, the sides of the pier, of course, going with them. Fortunately no one was injured. The damage involved will amount to many hundreds of pounds, chiefly from delay. The pillars and sidework of the pier are almost, if not entirely, intact; but the girders, which are sunk deep in the masonry, were considerably broken at the top. It will not be necessary to replace these and remove the mason-work, as it is proposed to "cap" the tops of them, which, when done, and the pillars again put into position, will, it is said, render the girders as strong as ever.

New Public Buildings, Westbromwich.—The public buildings erected by the Westbromwich Commissioners are now nearly completed. They comprise a town-hall, market-hall, free library, and public baths, and are situated on land fronting the hospital, the principal entrance being from the High-street, to which these imposing buildings lend considerable attraction. The market-hall having been completed in advance of the other buildings, was opened by a bazaar in aid of the building and furnishing fund of the District Hospital. The hall is 90 ft. wide and 151 ft. long. The interior is divided into a central avenue, 40 ft. wide and 45 ft. high, on either side of which are arranged aisles, each 25 ft. wide, divided from the central avenue by handsome arcading, supported by iron columns 18 ft. apart, having foliated caps. The elevation is of red brick, relieved by stonework and moulded bricks, with carving freely introduced, and the ridges are furnished with ornamental ironwork. Convenient and necessary offices are also attached to the building, which are available both for the covered market and also for a large open market at the rear of the hall. The whole of the work has been carried out under the direction of Messrs. Weller & Proud, architects.

Outbreak of Fever in Huddersfield.—We are informed that a serious outbreak of typhoid fever has occurred at Clayton West, in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield. Out of about 120 cases ten or twelve have proved fatal, and several other persons are dangerously ill. In some families there are six persons ill, with scarcely any nurses to look after them. The outbreak is attributed to the wells being polluted with the refuse from stables and the graveyard.

International Memorial of Slave Emancipation.—The memorial stone of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Tower, as it has also been called, which rises at the head of the Rev. Newman Hall's church, at the junction of the Westminster and Kennington roads, was laid on the 9th inst. General Schenck, the United States minister, performed the ceremony; and among those who assembled on the site of the building were Mr. Cyrus W. Field, Mr. Moncure D. Conway, Mr. G. B. Lincoln (Brooklyn), Dr. J. J. Hayes, the American explorer; Mr. J. W. Nunn, the American vice-consul; Rev. Newman Hall, and others; a large company of ladies and gentlemen being present. The Rev. Newman Hall read a brief statement as to how the idea of building the tower originated. The plan has been enlarged, and the tower and spire will now be 200 ft. high. The stars and stripes will be inwrought on the stone, and the British lion and the American eagle will together ornament the angles of the tower, which will contain general class-rooms, the principal of which will be named "Washington" and "Wilberforce." Mr. Hall stated, that till about a week previously no public appeal had been made. About 3,500*l.* had been subscribed as the British moiety. Finding, however, that 1,200*l.* were wanting, he had obtained subscriptions, which left the debt at about 400*l.* Mr. Hall added, that although the tower was attached to the church, it was completely unsectarian and catholic, having been built by the contributions of all parties and sects as a manifestation of the sympathy of each nation with the other, and of their mutual joy at the destruction of slavery.

Fatal Accident in Excavating under a Wall at Brighton. — Whilst men were excavating ground for the foundation of the Rev. Arthur Wagner's new church in Russell-street, Brighton, to a depth of 16 ft., the ground had been got out to the required depth in the centre, but only to the depth of 10 ft. near a wall. A ledge was thus formed on which the ground diggers were employed "facing" the excavation for the bricklayers before proceeding to dig out the remaining 6 ft., and whilst they were at this work the earth bulged out from the bottom, pushing them off the ledge, and bringing down the wall above. One poor fellow was buried in the *débris*, and severely injured; and another, being pushed clear of the falling earth, was struck on the head by a piece of the wall, and killed on the spot. At the inquest, the Deputy-Coroner, in summing up, said there was no question about the cause of death, and the only point for the consideration of the jury was whether a due amount of care was taken in excavating the ground. All the witnesses agreed in stating their belief that there was no danger, and they were all men of experience. There was no legal liability on the part of any one concerned. The jury returned the usual formal verdict of "Accidental death."

London Bridge Waterworks Shares.—At the Auction Mart the sale of a unique property has been effected by Messrs. Edwin Fox & Bousfield. It consisted of 274 London Bridge Waterworks Annuities secured by the New River Company, each producing 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum for a term of 208 years. The average price was 58*l.* each annuity, the total amount realised being 16,020*l.* The London Bridge Waterworks were constructed in 1580 by a Dutchman, who secured a lease from the Corporation of London for 500 years. When it was arranged between the Corporation of the City of London and the London Bridge Waterworks proprietors that the works should be removed, the New River Company undertook to pay the proprietors their then dividend of 2*l.* 10*s.* per share as an annuity for the 260 years unexpired in the original lease. The result has been satisfactory to all parties, as proved by the sale now recorded. At the same time were submitted 10 shares of 100*l.* each in the New River Company, 40*l.* per share being paid, and these realised 100*l.* per share, being equal to a premium of 150*l.* per cent.

Mold Parish Church.—With reference to a statement that the walls of this church are giving way, it is now said that a gentleman sent down by Sir Gilbert Scott to make an examination of the church, upon being asked whether such was the case, replied that the walls are perfectly sound; and in confirmation of this judgment, an article appears in the *Mold Parish Magazine* of July, contributed by Mr. C. H. Leslie, an inhabitant of the town, and one of the committee appointed to carry out the necessary restoration.

The Explorations in Nineveh. — At a meeting of the Geographical Society on Tuesday week, Mr. Smith, in his account of his recent excavations in Nineveh, said his principal work was on the site of the palace of Sennacherib, called the South-West Palaces. He recovered from this palace over 2,000 tablets, and fragments of cuneiform inscriptions of various ages. Mr. Smith said it was only a few days since the collection arrived at the British Museum, and he had not had time to estimate the contents of the inscriptions. He was convinced of the identity of Izdubar with the Nimrod of the Bible. Most of the fragments of cuneiform tablets would join on the other portions of the texts already in the museum, but much more required to be done to render the texts complete. It would require three years' work and the expenditure of 5,000*l.* to complete the excavation of the great library in the Palace of Sennacherib.

"Service is no Inheritance."—Every one knows that; and yet it is generally thought that service has its just claims, and may make them good during life. Even this, it would seem, is not correct. Talking accidentally the other day with one of the curators at the National Gallery, who bears a name known in the Royal Academy, we heard with extreme astonishment, not to say indignation, that after a service of more than thirty-six years, he is receiving exactly what was paid him the first year he took office. He was paid two guineas a week when he first entered the establishment, and now, in the thirty-seventh year, he is paid two guineas a week still. Surely this is a stern measure of justice, and deserves reconsideration. The purchasing power of two guineas is not what it was by 20 per cent.; and long service is in itself a claim.

The Building Trades Technical School, Bradford. — This institution has now been established some years, and it has quietly but efficiently done good work for the workmen and apprentices engaged in the building trade. Mr. Leadley is the technical teacher. Twenty-two of his pupils from the school were presented for examination in building construction under the Science and Art Department, and the result is highly creditable to the teacher, and gratifying to the managers of the school. Nineteen of the twenty-two passed. Mr. Gormall, teacher of the plain and solid geometry class, presented nineteen from his class for examination, twelve of whom passed. These results are very satisfactory, and the only regret of the managers is that a larger number of workmen and apprentices do not avail themselves of the great advantages these schools offer to the advancement of the trade.

A Sawing Machine of novel construction has been brought into use at Granton, near Leith, by Messrs. Calder & Lunnan, importers of timber from the Baltic. The invention is designed to cut railway-sleepers at the ship's side, in order to save the expense of carriage to the ordinary mills. The boiler and sawing-gear are of the ordinary description, but are placed on a floating platform or flat-bottomed punt, entirely decked over, and which, when afloat, is only a few inches out of the water. From the side of this vessel an elevator projects into the water, and receives the blocks of timber. They are then, by means of girding-chains, conducted to the saw-frame, and cut through from end to end. The inventor of the machine is Mr. Robert Melvino, of Sunny-side Foundry, Alloa.

The Southborough Surveyorship.—At a special meeting of the Local Board, the chief business was to open the applications—eight in number—for the office of surveyor. Mr. W. Crittenden, a member of the Board, had resigned his seat in order to become a candidate for the appointment, which has now attached to it a salary of 70*l.* per annum. The several applications having been opened, the following were selected, viz.:—Mr. John Smith, Ore, near Hastings; Mr. Thomas Thompson, Cambridge-street, Tunbridge Wells; and Mr. W. Crittenden, Southborough. It was left for a sub-committee to examine further into the capabilities of these three gentlemen and to report to the Board.—*Kent Courier.*

The Brighton Aquarium Company.—The directors of the Brighton Aquarium Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ending June 30 at the rate of 10*l.* per cent. per annum.

New Church in Brixton.—On the 15th inst., the foundation-stone of St. Saviour's Church, Lambeth-road, Brixton-hill, was laid by Mr. James Watney, M.P. The building is designed in the Early French Gothic style, and consists of nave and aisles, chancel, organ-chamber, vestry, north and south porches, and a tower and spire at the north-west angle. It has a lofty clearstory and low aisles, divided by an arcade of arches. The accommodation is for 1,000 persons on the ground-floor. The church is to be faced with Kentish-rag and Bath stone dressing, and green slates are to be used for the roof. The vicar-designate is the Rev. J. Harding; the architect is Mr. E. C. Robins; and the amount of the contract, exclusive of the upper portion of the tower and spire, is 6,712*l.*

Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association.—The annual meeting of this Association was held on Tuesday, under the presidency of Dr. Noble. It was resolved "That, inasmuch as one of the fundamental objects of this Association is the prevention of diseases, this meeting trusts that the committee will use every means in their power to secure all possible precautions being taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases." It was also resolved, "That the practical efforts of the committee to improve the condition of the poorer classes, by directing attention to sanitary laws, deserve the encouragement and support of this meeting and the public in general."

A Cottage Hospital is to be built at High Wycombe, providing for eight beds, with medical and nursing staff, &c. This good cause has been warmly espoused latterly. Lord Carington, the largest landowner of the district, has given a capital site; the subscription list already amounts to 700*l.* or 800*l.*; and it is hoped that the Prime Minister (whose country seat is within view from the site) will consent to lay the foundation-stone early in September. Mr. Arthur Vernon is the architect.

The Kensington-road.—A deputation from the Board of Works for the Westminster District, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz.,—The Hon. Ashley Ponsonby and Messrs. Z. D. Berry, W. Needham, E. D. Doughty, S. H. Cohen, R. H. F. Pitt, T. J. Tayton, J. Hutt, J. Sherry, and R. R. Arntz, surveyor; W. Rogers, solicitor; and J. Harris, clerk,—had an interview, on Monday last, with Lord Henry Lennox, H.M. First Commissioner of Works, upon the subject of widening the Kensington-road.

Concrete Warehouses for Maidstone.—Mr. Grant, the distiller, of this town, having built, in 1870, an extensive arched bonded vault in the West Borough, entirely of concrete, is now erecting, with the same material, a large warehouse of three stories above the basement, for the manufacture and storage of morella cherry brandy. The building will be 80 ft. long and 43 ft. wide, and not only the walls, but the floors and roof also, are to be of concrete, resting upon rolled iron girders.

Art-Schools, South Kensington.—In reply to Mr. Cowper-Temple, in the Commons, the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, Lord Sandon, said there were no funds at present for the decoration of the building, and no decision could be arrived at as to the continued employment of the students on the decoration until the question of the building had been settled. The whole subject of the buildings at South Kensington was engaging the attention of the Government.

The Brunswick Monument at Geneva.—A preliminary design for the monument to Duke Charles of Brunswick, to be erected in the Place des Alpes at Geneva, has been prepared. According to the proposal an equestrian statue of the duke will be the principal figure, and surrounding it will be statues of six of the most remarkable dukes in the history of his country.

The Nelson Monument.—We are glad to observe that our remonstrance has not been in vain. Men are now engaged cleansing the bas-reliefs from the accumulated impurities which disfigured them. It is to be hoped that they understand their work, and are acting under proper direction.

The Adulteration of Food.—In the Commons, Mr. S. Booth, in reply to Mr. R. Hill, has said that, considering the late period of session at which the report of the committee on adulteration of food had been presented, it would be impossible for Government to legislate upon this difficult subject during the present session.

Public Hall, Hackney.—The project for the establishment of a public hall in Hackney appears to have been received very favourably, for the directors of the company have decided upon an immediate allotment of shares, and have instructed their secretary to invite tenders for the erection of the building.

Lowestoft.—A painted window has lately been put up in the church of St. John by Mr. C. L. Clemence, architect, as a memorial of his wife and nephew, the subject being "Faith, Hope, and Charity." The work has been carried out by Messrs. Gibbs & Moore, of London.

The Cole Testimonial.—The subscriptions promised now amount to 2,670*l.*, and arrangements are about to be made for the appropriation of this sum. Such of our readers as intend to subscribe should at once send their names to Mr. Crace, Wigmore-street.

The Fountain in Leicester-square.—Messrs. Yates, Haywood, & Co., of Dyers' Hall Wharf, wish it mentioned that the marble fountain in Leicester-square, with the exception of the centre, was undertaken and carried out by them.

The Working Men's Dwellings Bill.—This Bill, after a short discussion, has passed through committee in the House of Lords; but it was arranged that it should be re-committed in order that some amendments should be inserted in it.

TENDERS

For a new warehouse for Mr. Crawford, 118, Southampton-row, Russell-square. Mr. W. P. Griffith, architect:—

Lidstone	£1,172 0 0
Moreland & Nixon	978 0 0
Lawrence & Sons	949 0 0
Pocock	795 0 0

For repairs, painting, &c., at the Guildhall, for the Corporation of the City of London. Mr. Horace Jones, architect:—

Harrison & Son	£1,942 0 0
Mansfield & Sons	1,320 0 0
Macintosh	1,318 0 0
Taylor	1,259 0 0
Bracher & Sons	1,038 0 0
Philps & Bisiker	1,025 0 0
Pitman & Cuthbertson*	969 0 0

* Accepted.

For repairs, painting, and decoration, at the London Institution, Finsbury-circus. Mr. E. N. Clifton, architect:—

Colman	£1,320 0 0
Moxon	1,087 0 0
Battam & Co.	993 0 0
Phillips	876 0 0
Pitman & Cuthbertson*	749 0 0

* Accepted.

For alterations and repairs to No. 20, City-road, for the Committee of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. Messrs. Davis & Emanuel, architects:—

Heeps	£384 0 0
Williams & Son	338 0 0
King & Son (accepted)	329 0 0

For bank at Peterborough, for the Stamford and Spalding Banking Company. Mr. Wm. Eve, architect. Quantities supplied:—

Fast	£4,800 0 0
Sheffield	4,277 0 0
Waldram & Co.	4,175 0 0
Foster	4,130 0 0
Nightingale	3,993 0 0

For the Church of St. Aloysius, Oxford. Messrs. Hansom & Son, architects. Quantities supplied:—

Waldram & Co.	£6,835 0 0
Farmer & Brindley	6,750 0 0
Wright & Goodchild	6,600 0 0
Parnell & Sons	6,500 0 0
Dover	6,450 0 0
Jones	6,180 0 0
Claridge	5,810 0 0

For the erection of stabling and extension of running-shed at the V. W. H. Repository, Swindon, Wilts. Mr. W. H. Read, architect:—

Wiltshire (accepted)	£600 0 0

For rebuilding Nos. 80 and 81, Strand, for Mr. James Asser. Messrs. Chadwick & Sons, architects. Quantities by Mr. Wimperis:—

Clemence	£4,545 0 0
Colls & Sons	4,440 0 0
Williams & Son	4,353 0 0
Thorn & Co.	4,250 0 0
Macey	4,220 0 0
Scrivener & White (accepted)	3,929 0 0

For workshops, Taylor's Buildings, St. Martin's-lane, for Messrs. Benham & Froud. Messrs. Chadwick & Sons, architects. Quantities by Mr. Charles W. Brooks:—

Hill, Higgs, & Hill	£3,480 0 0
Clemence	3,343 0 0
Scrivener & White	3,287 0 0
Williams & Son	3,287 0 0
Macey (accepted)	3,136 0 0

For alterations and repairs to York-street Chapel, Walworth. Messrs. Charles Searle & Son, architects. Quantities supplied:—

Nightingale	£2,799 0 0
Cooke	2,746 0 0
Dove, Brothers	2,720 0 0
Colls	2,697 0 0
Sewell & Sons	2,684 0 0
Marsland	2,485 0 0
Brass	2,430 0 0
Hill, Higgs, & Hill	2,390 0 0
Macey	2,260 0 0
Newman & Mann	2,246 0 0

For alterations and repairs to Premises, No. 11, Bedford-square, Bloomsbury. Mr. Alfred Cross, architect. Quantities by Mr. John Glenn:—

Woodward	£1,051 0 0
Pritchard	960 0 0
Howard	945 0 0
Bayes & Ramage	925 0 0
Newman & Mann	859 0 0
Parks	804 0 0
Wilson, Brothers	693 0 0

For new premises for Messrs. W. B. Simpson & Sons, of 456, West Strand, W.C. Mr. Daniel Ruddle, architect. Quantities supplied by Messrs. Strudwick & Mennie:—

Hill, Higgs, & Hill	£4,430 0 0
Kirk & Co.	4,394 0 0
Bayes & Ramage	4,370 0 0
Mitchell	4,246 0 0
Sharpington & Cole	4,233 0 0
Perry & Co.	4,132 0 0
Williams & Son	4,080 0 0
Scrivener & White	3,895 0 0

For paving and making up the roadways in Milton Court-road, Vansittart-street, Alexandra-street, and Rutt's-terrace, New Cross, for the Greenwich Board of Works:—

	Milton Ct. Rd.	Vansittart Street.	Alexandra Street.	Rutt's Terr.
Batch*	£334	£334	£366	£239
Mowlem & Co.	336	344	370	253
Goodair	366	375	420	327
Etheridge	363	390	400	295

* Accepted.

For the erection of a detached house, on Putney Hill, Surrey. Messrs. Lee, Bros., & Pain, architects:—

Pain (accepted)	£3,694 0 0

For the erection of a new billiard-room at The Horns, Shoreditch (exclusive of fittings and decorations), for Mr. C. Higgenson. Mr. Wm. Munday, architect:—

Brown	£650 0 0
Poulson	648 0 0
Stamp & Bowtle	643 0 0
Blackmore & Morley (accepted)	629 0 0

For book-cases for the Congregational Memorial Hall Library, Farringdon-street, E.C. Messrs. J. Tarring & Son, architects:—

Filmer & Son	£791 2 0
Collinson & Lock	680 0 0
George	613 11 0
Jackson & Shaw (accepted)	510 0 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. H. L. B. (shall have attention next week).—An Apprentice (a list of such books was given in our pages a few years ago).—S. B. (if our correspondent wish a competition for his 200*l.* cottage,—a competition which offers nothing but trouble to those who might be foolish enough to respond,—he will have to advertise it in the usual way).—F. & B. (we shall be glad to see photographs, &c.).—W. J. A. (apply to an architect).—Y. H. & Co. (the account we gave was official).—J. D. H. (the slip corrects itself).—J. J.—M. P.—H. C.—J. L.—R. K.—W. & P.—A. V.—B.—E. C. R.—J. L.—J. H.—A. L. M.—G. & Co.—J. B. W.—P. R.—W. H. R.—H. M.—W. M.—W. F.

We are compelled to decline pointing out books and giving addresses.

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